

Hafa Adai!

BoS CEO Arroyo briefs CWA's fourth session. **PAGE 2**

Court denies Torres' motion to dismiss on grounds of vindictive prosecution. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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HSEM conducts tsunami response drill at 8 schools

CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management conducted a tsunami preparedness exercise drill for eight schools last Tuesday.

The eight schools that took part in the tsunami preparedness exercise drills are Mount

See HSEM on **Page 4**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A tsunami preparedness exercise drill was spearheaded by the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management last Tuesday. Photo shows students and their teachers going up As Terlaje Hill toward the designated tsunami evacuation site at the Northern Marianas College.

House leadership sets the record straight

Compared to what Gov. Ralph DLG Torres proposed in his FY 2023 budget submission,

the leadership of the CNMI House of Representatives increased the level of funding

to critical healthcare, community and cultural affairs, and public safety departments and

agencies.

The simple truth is that the governor is completely wrong.

"Take a look at the numbers that the governor proposed and compare them to what the Legislature appropriated. A simple comparison shows that the governor actu-

ally zero-funded operations for several key departments. This forces expenditure authorities to request ARPA money from the secretary

See **HOUSE** on **Page 4**

'People should continue to protect Article 12'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Friday that the people of the CNMI should stand up and continue to protect Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution.

Article 12 was established to restrict landownership in the CNMI to persons of Northern Marianas descent, or NMD.

In response to a question during a KKMP press briefing, Torres expressed his position about Article 12 not as a governor but as a father and someone who was born and raised in the CNMI.

"This is not about politics,"

said the governor, adding that it is not about his political party either.

He said because land is an individual's take, every individual has rights to decide what he or she wants to do with his or her land.

Torres said he would like to see Article 12 maintained, as he likes to have his children

See **PEOPLE** on **Page 4**

DPL holds big lottery of homestead lots in As Gonno

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After two decades, the Department of Public Lands held yesterday's

See **DPL** on **Page 4**

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, sixth from left, House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind.-Saipan), ninth from left, and Department of Public Lands Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar, seventh from left, lead DPL officials and lawmakers in the ribbon-cutting ceremony yesterday morning for the As Gonno Plumeria Estate Homestead. Also in the photo are CNMI Infrastructure Recovery Program coordinator Marianne Teregeyo-Concepcion, fifth from left, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary P. Camacho, third from right, and Fr. Rey Rosal, fourth from right.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

INSIDE

LOCAL

The Commonwealth Cancer Association, Inc. publicly launched its new logo on Friday.

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ENVIRONMENT

Record high temperatures in urban Europe as heat waves bake the planet more often.

PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE

Jurors began deliberating Tuesday at R. Kelly's federal trial in Chicago.

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Local

BoS CEO Arroyo briefs CWA's fourth session

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
 crystal_marino@saipantribune.com
 CORRESPONDENT

Building Optimism, Opportu-

nities and Stability Together
 grant administrator and Bank
 of Saipan president and CEO
 John Arroyo joined the CNMI



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

From left, CNMI Women's Association contractor Roxanne Diaz, BOOST administrator and Bank of Saipan president and CEO John Arroyo, CWA director and WEP participant/entrepreneur Shannon Sasamoto, CWA program assistant Dorina Iginoef, and CWA special advisor Shirley Ogunoro pose for a group photo at the CWA office on Capitol Hill.



Bank of Saipan CEO John Arroyo speaks to individuals gathered for the fourth session of the CNMI Women's Entrepreneur project second cohort yesterday on Capitol Hill.

Women's Entrepreneurs Project's fourth session hosted by the CNMI's Women Association yesterday at their headquarters on Capitol Hill.

The session drew 22 individuals, both in-person and on Zoom call. During his presentation, Arroyo was able to give the cohort a better understanding of BOOST, including background information of the program, and also answered the questions members of the cohort raised during the session.

Roxanne Diaz, independent contractor under the CNMI Women's Association, shared some remarks with *Saipan*

Tribune about the session.

"Today there was a great turnout. Having John answer questions, and just clarifying was very helpful," she said "...We're very excited about the amount of applications that have already been submitted. And I would say 99% of our participants for cohort 2 are also applying for the BOOST grant and we are very excited to boost our economy but also boost entrepreneurs' hopeful goals, especially this year."

The second cohort sessions, which is also held in partnership with the Small Business Development Network, have

both men and women registered to be a part of it and these individuals have been receiving step by step guidance on working through BOOST applications, and business planning.

Diaz also explained the benefit of the sessions, saying that if some individuals were not able to receive BOOST funding, at least they still have the knowledge, and still more opportunities of aid from other agencies that are willing to help small business owners as they serve the community's needs.

"Just helping our local community with what they

need and just helping them [through] networking with different resources."

Diaz mentioned that previous sessions had included speakers from the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority as well as the Department of Commerce. She also made mention of the State Small Business Credit Initiative funding, which will be coming up soon for small businesses.

"We are very happy that there is a push for supporting our local entrepreneurs but also our small business owners. The longterm goal is to continue this program, and also continue to network with the different entities that can support small business and local entrepreneurship [for the] long term."

She expressed her appreciation and thanks toward Arroyo for his involvement and contribution in yesterday's session, Will Castro, the chief of staff of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and Torres himself for the opportunity and also the availability of the BOOST grant.

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IN LAWSUIT OVER ILLEGAL AIR TRAVEL

Court denies Torres' motion to dismiss on grounds of vindictive prosecution

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
Kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Judge Pro Tem Alberto Tolentino has denied Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed by the Office of the Attorney General on the grounds of selective and vindictive prosecution.

Over the weekend, Tolentino issued a written order denying Torres' motion for dismissal of selective and vindictive prosecution or alternatively allow discovery and evidentiary hearing because the defense cannot prove that the charges filed against him were increased or that more severe charges were filed after he exercised a constitutional or statutory right.

"Although the right to run for office may be a protected constitutional right, vindictive prosecution is generally present where a defendant is reindicted or retried after the exercise of a procedural right. Neither the record nor the facts alleged by either party indicate that this has occurred. Therefore, the court finds that the defendant has failed to show that the Commonwealth engaged in vindictive prosecution in the instant case," the judge said.

At the same time, Tolentino also issued multiple orders denying the defense's two other motions to dismiss the criminal charges against Torres, or counts 1-12 and 14 as stated on the complaint filed by the AG.

As for his five other motions to dismiss, Tolentino has yet to issue a ruling.

One of Tolentino's orders denies Torres's motion to dismiss counts 1-12 on grounds that they are time barred.

The court found that pursuant to 6 CMC § 107(c)(2), counts 1 to 12 are not time barred as Torres had continuously occupied the same public office from 2017, when the alleged misconduct occurred, to April of 2022, when the charges were brought in the instant criminal case.

Tolentino also denied the governor's motion to dismiss Counts 1-13 on grounds that 1 CMC § 7407 is unconstitutionally vague and does not apply to an elected official.

The defense argued that the statute only prohibits government employees from causing premium airline tickets to be issued. "As the statute does not define 'government employee,' it should not be applied to public officials," the defense argued.

However, Tolentino found that the CNMI Legislature

See **COURT** on Next Page

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STOCK #	YEAR	MODEL	KBB	SALE PRICE	STOCK #	YEAR	MODEL	KBB	SALE PRICE
18HS950	2018	KIA FORTE	\$17,059	\$14,995	18HS947	2018	HONDA CIVIC EX	\$23,087	\$21,995
15P325	2015	TOYOTA CAMRY XLE	\$20,295	\$15,995	22M021A	2019	MAZDA6 GT SEDAN	\$29,936	\$24,995
16P446	2016	MAZDA3 SPORT	\$18,115	\$17,995	20P413	2020	TOYOTA C-HR LE	\$27,407	\$26,995
17P365	2017	HYUNDAI TUCSON SE	\$19,752	\$17,995	18R289	2018	FORD F-150 XL	\$30,387	\$27,995
17P370	2017	TOYOTA COROLLA LE	\$20,726	\$18,995	19R286	2019	MAZDA CX-9 SPORT SUV 4D	\$30,362	\$29,995
8H054E	2019	HYUNDAI KONA SE	\$21,651	\$18,995	22H191A	2016	TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR5 SPORT 4D	\$35,480	\$29,995
21D129A	2018	HYUNDAI KONA SE	\$20,789	\$18,995	13P359	2013	TOYOTA FJ CRUISER SPORT	\$33,890	\$29,995
18HS1000	2018	MAZDA 6 SPORT WHITE	\$23,321	\$18,995	20H141E	2018	HYUNDAI GENESIS-G90	\$38,204	\$34,995
14P466	2014	CHEVY CAMARO	\$20,597	\$19,995	19P367	2019	HONDA RIDGELINE	\$47,459	\$39,995
16P424	2016	NISSAN MAXIMA	\$27,062	\$19,995	10P447	2010	FORD RAPTOR	\$38,151	\$39,995
18P393	2018	NISSAN ROGUE SPORT	\$22,661	\$19,995	18P478	2018	FORD EXPLORER	\$41,387	\$39,995
7P460	2007	TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 4WD	\$25,887	\$19,995	19P455	2019	KIA STINGER GT2	\$45,870	\$44,995
22M032A	2018	HONDA CIVIC EX	\$23,840	\$21,995	21H096D	2021	HYUNDAI PALISADE LIMITED	\$55,838	\$46,995

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2017 NISSAN 370Z TOURING

SALE PRICE **\$31,995**

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2017 TOYOTA TUNDRA TRD

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• 40,385 MILES • STK: 22D029A

2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SE

SALE PRICE **\$17,995**

• KBB: \$20,397 • 18,200 MILES • STK: 21H079A

2018 HONDA CIVIC TYPE-R

SALE PRICE **\$44,995**

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Court imposes \$5K bail on alleged peeping tom

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a \$5,000 cash bail on a man who allegedly secretly recorded a video of a showering woman in a common bathroom at an apartment in Garapan. Last Thursday, Superior Court As-

sociate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$5,000 cash bail on Katter Manas, 40, who is currently facing disturbing the peace charges for allegedly recording a woman while she was showering.

During the bail hearing, Camacho denied Manas' request to be released on his own recognizance because the

defendant may be returning to the same apartment where the incident took place.

Following the hearing, Camacho remanded Manas back to Department of Corrections' custody.

At Manas' hearing, assistant public defender Karie Comstock was appointed to represent the defen-

dant while Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

According to court documents, at around 4pm last Aug. 5, police responded to a reported prowling incident at an apartment in Garapan.

Police met with a woman who said she was taking a shower in the outside bathroom of their apartment because the one inside her unit was broken.

While showering, the woman said she noticed a shadow inside the bathroom coming from an opening above the bathroom door. She said when she looked up she saw the camera lens of a cellphone. She then covered herself with her clothes quickly and opened the door to see who was outside.

When she opened the door, she

saw a man who was later identified as Manas. She said she recognized him because he also resides in the same apartment building, but she doesn't know his name.

She said Manas was holding a cellphone and was smiling at her.

She said she yelled at him and asked what he was doing there. The woman then told her husband and her neighbors about the incident, and her husband called the police.

In a freely given statement to the police, Manas admitted recording the woman with his cellphone and told police that it was not the first time he recorded someone in the outside bathroom of the apartment.

Manas said he has also recorded another woman that he does not know. He said she did not know he was recording her.

DPL

From Page 1

terday one of the biggest lotteries of homestead lots on Saipan during a ribbon cutting ceremony for the 330 lots As Gonno Plumeria Estate Homestead.

Thirty out of 2,100 pending applicants drew their lot numbers. Each lot contains 500 square meters of public land. DPL will soon hold more homestead lotteries for the As Gonno project.

Melia Johnson, 47, a legislative aide, was among those 30 awarded with homestead lots.

Johnson, in an interview, said she put in her application back in 1994 and that she has been waiting since then.

"So finally I got awarded my homestead," Johnson said. "I'm really happy."

She plans to start clearing the homestead lot once she goes to the DPL office and pay the permit fees.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. needs to install sewer and power at the As Gonno Plumeria Estate Homestead, but the lottery is a step forward giving everyone the opportunity to start on their homestead.

"I know this is probably the biggest one we've done in how many years? Two decades. That's 20 years

ago," Torres said.

The governor said there are still a lot more homestead applicants, but that the administration and DPL are definitely one step closer in addressing the shortage of land.

"We don't have enough land for everybody. But we definitely have this as a priority to give those opportunities," he said.

Torres said especially now with some of the federal funding that the CNMI has, he hopes that with this As Gonno Homestead they will be able to fulfill the application to build people's homes and dreams.

He said CUC has a long way to go, but they want to make sure that they have a very good As Gonno subdivision.

The governor said he wants to put up an additional fire station for the community in the subdivision area.

"Some of you flew all the way from Texas and have been waiting for this for a long time. I thank you for your patience. But we're here and moving forward in making this a reality," Torres said.

Department of Public Lands Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar said former DPL secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo kicked this project down the road, knowing that there is a need to provide homes to the Northern Marianas Descent people.

Igisomar said when he assumed

the position of DPL secretary, he was able to witness the hard working divisions that Concepcion-Teregeyo commanded with her "adeptness and leadership."

He said he observed the department, its partners, other agencies, coming together to keep the project ball rolling, amidst challenges of resources, environmental permitting, and other external forces beyond the CNMI's border control.

Igisomar said the end game is having a village homestead quit claim deeds issued.

Igisomar said the middle game is holding lottery of the lots, issuing entry permits, then the CNMI Infrastructure and Recovery Program team, CUC, Department of Public Works, and other regulatory agencies, work together toward the end game of having water and sewer, and quit-claim-deeds to soon-to-be new 330 homeowners.

"The moment we are in today, is made possible, aside from all the hard work of our public lands and department and offices of our governor's executive branch, but truly from the direct support and financial resources from our governor through his department of Finance," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

HOUSE

From Page 1

of Finance on a case-by-case basis. This is not how we should be budgeting our departments and running the government. We in the Legislature used local funds and the funds that the governor tried to use for Medicaid reimbursement to give these critical entities as much funding as possible," said Ways and Means chair Rep. Donald Manglona (D-Saipan).

"If there was any shortage in what the Legislature passed, it was still a substantial improvement over what the governor proposed. The numbers don't lie," said Rep. Joel Camacho (D-Saipan).

"The governor makes several material misstatements that indicate that he either misread the budget bill or he is simply lying. Either way, he is wrong and his comments are utterly irresponsible and obviously driven by politics as opposed to fiscal analysis. For example, the governor claims that the Legislature decreased what was appropriated to the Carolinian Affairs Office by \$94,000. Nonsense," said Rep. Denita Yangetmai (D-Saipan). "The House bill appropriated \$5,373 more to the Carolinian Affairs Office than the governor's proposal," the Refalu-

wasch lawmaker said.

The governor also claims that the House leadership reduced the Indigenous Affairs budget by \$89,000. "This is untrue. This office had their budget reduced by \$3,494 but this reduction reflects the removal of an unfilled vacancy. We increased their operations budget.

"The governor fails to mention that his proposal for the Indigenous Affairs budget slashed their budget from \$310,001 to just \$151,367," said Yangetmai.

The governor claims that the House leadership allocated \$165,000 less to the Veterans Affairs Office. This is false. The governor proposed \$286,838. The House bill actually appropriated \$297,508. "There was no decrease. Period. In fact, we appropriated \$10,670 more than what governor Torres allotted to this important office," said retired Army veteran Rep. Richard Lizama (D-Saipan).

The governor claims that the Legislature cut the CNMI Scholarship Office by \$151,000.

However, this is false. The House increased funding to the scholarship office by a small amount.

While Torres claims that the House leadership took \$79,000 from the Women's Affairs Office, in reality, the House increased their funding by \$5,326. "Not only was there was no

reduction whatsoever, we managed to increase their funding over what Torres proposed," said Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan).

"The governor is misinforming the people. If he is intentionally lying then that is unforgivable. On the other hand, if he is being honest and unintentionally sharing false information, then his incompetence is inexcusable," said Ways and Means vice chair Rep. Corina Magofina (D-Saipan).

The governor states that he is deeply disappointed with the House majority's decision to cut resources from essential governmental agencies and departments in favor of giving themselves an additional \$1.2 million in allocations. "There was no increase over our current budget in FY 2022," said Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan). "Unlike the Executive Branch, the Legislature and the Judiciary do not have any access to ARPA funds. What the Legislature appropriated for FY 2023 did not even match the current FY 2022 budget level. In truth we actually cut our budget compared to the current year, so the governor again totally misconstrues what we did," said Babauta. (PR)

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

HSEM

From Page 1

Carmel School, Oleai Elementary School, Oleai Head Start, Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School, Marianas High School, Susupe Early Head Start, Chalan Kanoa Head Start/Early Head Start, William S. Reyes Elementary School, Saipan Community School, Garapan Elementary School, Tanapag Middle School, and Tanapag Head Start/Early Head Start.

The tsunami preparedness exercise drills were accomplished in collaboration with the CNMI Public School System, the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

Natural disasters and other emergencies can occur at any time, and when they do, everyone at school should be prepared to handle them safely and effectively. Administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and students can all work together to promote and maintain school-wide safety and to mitigate the effects of

emergencies and other dangerous situations. The increased independence that comes with attending school, also comes with increased responsibility, particularly in terms of emergency preparedness. While schools on the island conduct emergency drills and provide information on what to do in the event of a natural disasters, whether it'd be an earthquake or a tsunami, students must ensure that they also know what to do if emergencies occur while they are in class or away from home. Reading up on school emergency procedures, ensuring that emergency supplies are available, familiarizing oneself with the campus layout, and becoming acquainted with school resources can all help students stay safe and prepared in emergency situations.

The purpose of this exercise was to prepare students, faculty, and the general public for a real tsunami in the event that one occurs following a local earthquake warning. The emphasis of this tsunami drill was based on safety, security, reliability, and the use of existing emergency protocols that exists within the schools. (PR)

PEOPLE

From Page 1

transfer the land from one generation to another.

"We don't even have one homestead out of the Northern Islands," he said.

The governor said Article 12 is the only identity that the people of the CNMI have.

"And it's been acknowledged by the Supreme Court and that is what we have, and we should hold it, maintain it, as long as we can," he said.

Torres said he has no problem talking about amending Article 12.

COURT

From Page 3

explicitly stated that the purpose of 1 CMC § 7407(f) was to prohibit the purchase of first class, business class, or other premium airline tickets by the Commonwealth Government.

"The Office of the Governor is a part of the Commonwealth Government, and the Governor is a member of the office. The court ascertains that because the CNMI Legislature intended 1 CMC § 7407(f) to apply to the Commonwealth Government as a whole, the Office of the Governor and its members would also be prohibited from authorizing the purchase of first class, business class, or other premium airline tickets, under the statute," the judge said.

According to court documents, on April 8, 2022, the Office of the Attorney General filed a criminal case against the governor, alleging 12 counts of misconduct in public office and one count of theft relating to the issuance of airline tickets for business class, first class, or other premium class travel for himself and/or first lady Diann T. Torres.

The case also alleged one count of contempt for failure to appear in compliance with a subpoena.

The governor has denied the charges.

In a previous ruling, the judge granted, in part, Torres' motion to dismiss count 14, which is contempt for failure to comply with a legislative subpoena.

The judge dismissed the contempt charge without prejudice which means it can be refiled.

CNMI celebrates Library Card Sign-up Month

September is Library Card Sign-up Month, when libraries nationwide join the American Library Association (ALA) to remind parents, caregivers, and students that signing up for a library card is the first step on the path to academic achievement and lifelong learning.

Libraries play a crucial role in the education and development of children, offering a variety of programs to spark creativity and stimulate an interest in reading and learning. Through access to technology, media resources and educational programs, a library card gives



C. Mentzel

students the tools to succeed in the classroom and provides people of all ages opportunities to pursue their dreams, explore new passions and interests, and find their voice.

At the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library-NMI State Library, Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library (Rota), Tinian Public Library, Fernando M. Benavente Memorial Library, Bookmobile/Technology Mobile Express, patrons of all ages can find a variety of educational resources and activities, including Saturday Storytime, Stationary activities, Northern Marianas Humanities Council's Motherread/Fatheread CNMI family literacy program, Community Sea Aquarium, Community Garden, Teen Volunteer Program, Pacific Room, Computer Classes, virtual learning resources (EBSCOhost, Galeengage, Niche Academy, Baker & Taylor Axis 360, Readsquared), 1,000 Books before Kindergarten Program, NMI Library of Congress Center for the Book, National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS), and so much more!

"Libraries play an important role in the education and development of children," says Library Director Erlinda C. Naputi. "We have library programs that serve students of all ages and backgrounds such as our Saturday Storytime, which is a fun-filled Read Aloud with guest authors, presenters, and storytellers accompanied by arts and craft activities for our younger children. Our Children's Librarian team are certified Story Exploring Instructors and Certified Teachers in the Northern Marianas Humanities Council's Motherread/Fatheread CNMI family literacy program. We also have a vibrant Teen Volunteer program, which is a great way for teens to earn service hours during high school. For adults and older students, we encourage you to access our free vir-

tual learning resources online by visiting our website www.cnmilib.org. You will have free access to thousands of research databases and e-books for school, college, and work! Check us out! All you need is a library card!

How do we sign up for a library card? Visit your friendly Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Tinian Public Library, Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library, or

Bookmobile and fill out a library card application. Be sure to provide the following: 1) Proof of mailing address, for example, utility bill or phone bill. 2) Picture identification such as

your CNMI driver's license, CNMI mayor's i.d. or your passport. Library cards are free for first time applicants. Replacement cards are \$5. You need to be 6 years old or over to apply for a free library card. To learn more about the library's resources and programs, please visit www.cnmilib.org

This year, Tony Award-winning performer, actress, singer-songwriter, and philanthropist Idina Menzel (*Frozen*, *Wicked*) and her sister, author and educator Cara Mentzel, will serve as honorary chairs of Library Card Sign-Up Month. Idina and Cara are excited to remind everyone that one of the best places to find your voice is at the library. During Library Card Sign-Up Month, they want us to explore all the library has to offer, like new children's books, access to technology, and educational programming. Check out our Top 12 newly cataloged books available at your friendly Joeten-Kiyu Public Library:

1 "Book of Night" by Holly Black (McNaughton Fiction)

2 "Death of the Black Widow" by James Patterson (McNaughton Fiction)

3 "The Butler" by Danielle Steel (McNaughton Fiction)

4 "Abandoned in Death" by J.D. Robb (McNaughton Fiction)

5 "Mi Cocina: Recipes and Rapture from My Kitchen in México" by Rick Martinez (McNaughton Nonfiction)

6 "Speak: Find Your Voice, Trust Your Gut, and Get from Where You Are to Where You Want to Be" by Tunde Oyene-yin (McNaughton Nonfiction)

7 "Batgirl at Super Hero High" by Lisa Yee (Juvenile fiction)

8 "The Golden Rule" by Ilene Cooper (Juvenile fiction)

9 "Hurricane Child" by Kacen Callender (Juvenile fiction)

10 "ER Nurses: True Stories from America's Greatest Unsung Heroes" by James Patter-

son (McNaughton Nonfiction) 11 "The Palace Papers: inside the House of Windsor-the Truth and the Turmoil" by Tina Brown (McNaughton Nonfiction)

12 "Nine Lives: a Novel" by Danielle Steel (McNaughton Fiction)

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, along with libraries everywhere, continues to adapt and expand services to meet the evolving community needs. To sign up for a library card or to learn more about the library's resources and programs, please visit www.cnmilib.org

cnmilib.org

Please enjoy your public library's free resources by visiting our website at www.cnmilib.org

and like/follow JKPL's Facebook page @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Instagram @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Tik Tok @jkpl670, Twitter @JoetenKiyu, and Youtube: jo-

eten kiyu public library to see the progress and programs JKPL has worked so hard to offer for our com-

munity. Contact (670) 235-7323/7322 (READ) or visit your friendly Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. Hours of Operation: Open Tuesday-Thursday from 10am to 6pm, Friday from 1:30pm to 7pm,



I. Mentzel

and Saturday from 9:30am to 4pm. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and Holidays.

Visit or contact your friendly Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library on Rota (670) 532-

7329. Hours of Operation: Open Monday-Friday from 8:30am to 5:30pm and Saturday from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

Closed Sundays and holidays.

Visit or contact your friendly Tinian Public Library at (670) 433-0504. Hours of Operation: Open Monday-Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm. Closed Saturday, Sunday, and holidays.

This project was made possible in part by the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant #A1766A/62-005-746243834.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services LS-250000-OLS-21, LS-250249-OLS-21 FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant award, and LS-252496-OLS-22. (PR)

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
MUSEUM
OF HISTORY & CULTURE

Fiesta FRIDAYS

Every Friday at the NMI MUSEUM
Friday, Sept. 16, 2022, 5:30pm - 9:30pm

Good Food, Good Music,
Fit Beat Zumba, Bouncy House For Kids

Special thanks to Dave Electronics for sponsoring Truss Stage and LED Lighting
Special appreciation to M2 fitness for the \$2000 cash donation.

For more information, please call 670.664-2160 • www.nmimuseum.org

Commonwealth Cancer Association debuts new logo

The Commonwealth Cancer Association, Inc. publicly launched its new logo on Friday, Sept. 2, 2022 to better communicate a message of hope, survivorship, and solidarity to our community in the CNMI. The CCA would like to sincerely thank the leadership of Frankie Elliptico and his team at the Office of Institutional Advancement at Northern Marianas College for the contribution of their time and expertise while designing this logo.

In the photo above, you will

see that the CCA's new logo is a bird of paradise flower. It symbolizes freedom and hope—soaring over the suffering brought on by cancer, like birds soar over obstacles on land. The colors of the petals represent cancers that are prevalent in the CNMI, symbolically unifying our islands' survivors and patients under a single logo.

This rebranding foreshadows larger changes currently in the works for the CCA, which will be implemented in the coming year. Board presi-

dent, Roman 'Bo' Palacios, says this about the future of the CCA, "The CCA is moving forward with renewed moment and purpose. We're so excited to begin to fully

engage the community once again. Stay tuned!"

The CCA is a community-based cancer support organization that engages in cancer education and outreach, provides

patient and cancer support, and serves as the liaison for cancer matters in the CNMI. The CCA thanks all its sponsors, donors, and individuals who contribute to its programs.

If you wish to contact the CCA, please email ccamarian-

as@gmail.com, or call +1 (670) 682-0050. For a direct line to our patient navigator, please call +1 (670) 682-0052. You can also visit our office at the Gualo Rai Plaza Building, located along Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road in Gualo Rai. **(PR)**

USDA signs LFPA agreement with CNMI

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service announced it has signed a cooperative agreement with the Northern Mariana Islands under the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program. Through LFPA, the Northern Mariana Islands seek to purchase and distribute locally grown, produced, and processed food from underserved producers.

"USDA is excited to partner with Northern Mariana Islands to promote economic opportunities for farmers and producers and to increase access to locally sourced, fresh, healthy, and nutritious food in underserved communities," said USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jenny Lester Moffitt. "The Local Food Purchase Cooperative Agreement Program will improve food and agricultural supply-chain resiliency

and increase local food consumption around the country."

With the LFPA funding, the Feeding Marianas Food Purchase Program aims to improve the local food supply chain and system by supporting and expanding economic opportunities for local producers. Delivery and distribution will be coordinated with or through collaboration efforts with other government agencies and non-profit organizations.

"We are grateful to USDA AMS for the opportunity to further strengthen our food production and food supply system," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. "The Feeding Marianas Food Purchase Program will maintain and improve local food and agricultural supply chain resiliency through the procurement of domestically-sourced foods from local and underserved farmers, ranchers, and all other producers. Mass distribution of food to underserved communities will be coordinated through local non-profits, food banks, and other organizations engaging in food assistance programs."


"The LFPA supports local and underserved producers

through building and expanding economic opportunity, and establishing partnerships with producers, the food distribution community, and local food networks to ensure the distribution of fresh and nutritious foods in rural, remote, or underserved communities", stated CNMI Secretary of Commerce Edward Deleon Guerrero. "As the local agency administrator for the Feeding Marianas Food Purchase program, I want to thank our Economic Development Division for their part in leading the grant application."

The LFPA program is authorized by the American Rescue Plan to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency. Through this program, USDA will award up to \$400 million through non-competitive cooperative agreements with state and tribal governments to support local, regional, and underserved producers through the purchase of food produced within the state or within 400 miles of delivery destination.

AMS looks forward to continuing to sign agreements under this innovative program that allows state and tribal governments to procure and distribute local and regional foods and beverages that are healthy, nutritious, and unique to their geographic area.

More information about the program is available on AMS's Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program webpage. **(PR)**



NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6824/23/22 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: pppo@marianas.edu, Website: www.marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

JANITORIAL SERVICES NMC IFB 22-0006

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of Janitorial, Housekeeping and Cleaning Services for the As Terlaje Campus.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. P, commencing Thursday, August 25, 2022 between the hours of 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Bid Packages are due no later than 2:00 p.m., September 26, 2022, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. P, Saipan, MP 96950. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is available to local businesses for this procurement.

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB email to Anita Camacho (ppmo@marianas.edu). This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittal shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement & Property Manager



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) RFP22-CHCC/NCDB-027


SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCT. 17TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)
"NCD-CHW 2022 PROGRAM EVALUATION"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.


THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/s/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-22-040

A-16 Sewer Lift Station Generator Replacement

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the A-16 Sewer Lift Station Generator Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary for the removal of the existing A-16 Sewer Lift Station 350 KW Generator and Automatic Transfer Switch, procurement of a new 350 KW generator and Automatic Transfer Switch, modification of the existing concrete generator pad to match the new pad size requirement (if needed), restoration of the existing oil containment berm, repair of exhaust & muffler, and equipment start-up and commissioning. The work shall be done in accordance with the Scope of Work and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 180 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 21, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-22-040, A-16 Sewer Lift Station Generator Replacement"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 13, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of One Hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bonds must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 23, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, P&S, Purchasing Technician Senior via email, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLON
Purchasing Administrator



NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
P.O. Box 504880 Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 235-6684

Northern Marianas Technical Institute Request for Proposals (RFP) EDA Grant No. 07-79-07543 Northern Marianas Technical Institute Workforce Career Training Facility NMTI-2022/RFP-003

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTech), located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is soliciting bids from qualified vendors that are interested in providing professional services for the design and construction management for the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Workforce Career Training Facility.

The EDA funded project proposed is for an estimated 29,200 sq. ft. trades institute to house programs for Construction Trades, Culinary Arts, Automotive Technology, and Hotel/Restaurant Operations. The project aims to create a sustainable facility by adding on resiliency components. The project entails the construction of an approximately 29,200 square foot two story building providing administrative office spaces, restrooms, classrooms and floor spaces for its trades programs. The project also includes equipment, facility parking, entry/exit improvements to connect the project site to existing roadway(s), installation of back-up generator, water storage tank, and typhoon shutters for all its glass windows.

The Scope of Work is available beginning September 1, 2022, at the NMTech Procurement Office, located at Lower Base, Saipan. Requests may sent via email to procurement@nmttechnmi.org.

All questions or inquiries regarding this RFP is due no later than 9:00 p.m., **September 12, 2022, by email only**. Responses to questions or inquiries will be provided on September 16, 2022.

Sealed proposals for this project shall be submitted with one (1) original and four (4) copies to the NMTech Procurement Officer located at the NMTI campus, Lowerbase, Saipan, MP-96950 no later than **4:00pm, local time, Chamorro Standard Time, 09/22/2022 and must be marked "Proposal - Northern Marianas Technical Institute Workforce Career Training Facility NMTI-2022/RFP-003."** Electronic submissions may be accepted if approved prior to the submission deadline.

Failure to follow the instructions regarding the submission of RFP Responses may result in the NMTech's choice to disqualify such bids.

/s/ Jodina C. Attao
Chief Executive Officer

/s/ Amy Lynn Babauta
Procurement Officer

Carrie Mae Camacho, Pro se
P.O. Box 501345 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
670-789-5583

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE :
MATTER OF THE :
ESTATE OF : CIVIL ACTION
DIANA TAITANO : NO. 22-0213
CAMACHO, :
Deceased, : AMENDED NOTICE OF
by : HEARING AND NOTICE
CARRIE MAE : TO CREDITORS
CAMACHO, :
Petitioner. :

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for Letters of Administration seeking appointment of CARRIE MAE CAMACHO as Administrator of the Estate of DIANA TAITANO CAMACHO (Deceased), was filed in the above-entitled Court. A hearing has been set for the above-entitled matter and will be held in Courtroom of Judge Joseph N. Camacho of the Commonwealth Superior Court, located at the House of Justice-Guma Hustisia-Imwal Aweewe, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands at 10:00 a.m. on the 6th of October 2022.

All persons having any objection to the petition or having a claim against the Estate or against the deceased, should file their claim with the Clerk of Court of the Commonwealth Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice.

DATED this 8th day of September, 2022.

/s/
Clerk of Court

Amata urges Pacific leaders to confront China on climate change

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Speaking at the East-West Center, U.S. American Samoa Congresswoman Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen urged Pacific leaders to insist that the People's Republic of China meet international standards on reducing greenhouse gas emissions that are threatening the very existence of some Pacific Island countries.

"While China says the right things it doesn't do the right things," said the four-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives, who went on to note that "China is heavily reliant on coal power and the country is currently running 1,058 coal plants—more than half the world's capacity."

Amata, who is co-chairman of the Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus, also suggested the leaders "use your international leverage and prestige



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen with Pacific leaders at Pacific Island Conference of Leaders.

to tell China not to support Russia in any way in its unjust war in Ukraine," concluding "climate change standards and Ukraine War support are the two areas at a minimum that China must address with the Pacific before you even begin to talk with them about increasing their involvement in our islands. We owe it to the people we lead."

Amata is in Honolulu to

participate in the Pacific Island Conference of Leaders (PICL), a three-day gathering usually held once every three years to bring together heads of government of Pacific Islands Forum countries, French, American and New Zealand territories and the state of Hawaii. This is the first meeting of this conference, which is administratively supported by a secretariat housed at the East-West Center, since

the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Forum Island country leaders will go on from Honolulu to New York to address the U.N. General Assembly then to Washington for a summit hosted by President Biden Sept. 28-29.

Amata's father, the late American Samoa Gov. Peter Tali Coleman, was one of the driving forces in its creation and a founding member of the standing committee of PICL, which held its first conference in 1980 and provided a forum for territorial heads of government to share views with independent country leaders on issues common to all of them without regard to political status. Amata recalled seeing various heads of government gathering at Government House in Pago Pago on the eve of the 1982 South Pacific Conference for an informal evening of relaxation. "I realized that although they

carried different titles like king, president, prime minister, premier and governor, these were titles imported from the Western World. In that room, they were peers and friends who carried the same title in all our Pacific cultures: leader of the people."

Amata said she hoped the PIF leaders, armed with the views of leaders from the entire region, will be better able to convey to President Biden "whole-of-region" views on Pacific issues and hopes for American involvement. "For my part, I hope to persuade the next Congress to fund a state-of-the-art regional medical center in Pago Pago that can serve all of the surrounding Pacific Island groups, reducing the need for costly medical referrals to

Auckland, Honolulu, Sydney and Brisbane." Amata will gain seniority again come January. "I have always worked on a bi-partisan basis, so I hope to be in a position to help our region in the next Congress," noting that the Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus, formed under the leadership of Rep. Ed Case (D-HI), operates on a bi-partisan, consensus basis. "I appreciate Congressman Case for offering me a co-chairmanship."

Chaired by Federated States of Micronesia President David Panuelo, PICL concludes Wednesday. The Congresswoman credits President Panuelo's letter of caution to his Forum colleagues with halting PRC efforts to forge a regional security treaty. **(PR)**

UOG chief human resources officer officially fills role

Joseph B. Gumataotao has officially assumed the role of chief human resources officer at the University of Guam.

Gumataotao holds a juris doctorate degree from the Ave Maria School of Law, an independent Roman Catholic law school in Naples, Florida. He holds a bachelor's degree in communications from UOG.

"I hope to continue the progress at the HR Office. We've already gone digital in areas that were heavily reliant on paper-based processing," Gumataotao said. "The aim is to push forward with work-flow integration and getting more onboarding processing streamlined. At the same time, we will work on

providing more training and development programs for our employees."

He most recently served as acting and interim chief human resources officer. In July, his title became official after a competitive search.

He previously was the director of UOG's Equal Employment Opportunity office

and coordinator for Title IX and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance at UOG.

Gumataotao said his legal background and interest in employment law drew him into the field of human resources. He worked as a general practice attorney and as a senior law clerk for now-retired Superior Court Judge Anita Sukola before joining UOG. **(PR)**

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/CGC-026

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCT. 17TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"COMPREHENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT APPLICATION"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

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Opinion

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Juul settlement is only half the battle to hold nicotine-addiction industry accountable

A multi-state settlement with electronic cigarette maker Juul might not contain an outright admission by the company that it deliberately targeted kids with advertising and candy-flavored vaping liquids as a way to get them hooked on nicotine. But the terms of the settlement make pretty clear exactly what Juul did and what kinds of damage it caused to millions of lives.

Now the company will pay—and justifiably so—for having put the pursuit of profits above the welfare of children and will have to embark on an expensive campaign to turn kids away from the very vaping devices Juul marketed with them in mind. How outrageous was Juul's targeting of children? According to a 2020 lawsuit, Juul paid to advertise on Seventeen.com, Nickjr.com and Cartoonnetwork.com.

Even then-President Donald Trump, rarely known to side against big business billionaires, found Juul's and other nicotine marketers' behavior so egregious that he signed a law in 2019 raising the age from 18 to 21 to legally purchase vaping and tobacco products. Now Juul will pay close to \$440 million to 33 states that went after the company. Tobacco-friendly Missouri is not listed among them.

Cigarette smoking has seen a steep decline in the years since Big Tobacco was forced into a multibillion-dollar settlement to help pay for the health damage caused by their products over many decades. But since their business hinges not so much on tobacco as the highly addictive nicotine that drove millions of people to smoke, Big Tobacco also has turned to vaping as a way to salvage a lucrative business model. They joined Juul in nationwide marketing campaigns touting vaping as a safer way to enjoy smoking.

In other words, it's a smoke-free way for addicts to get their nicotine fix.

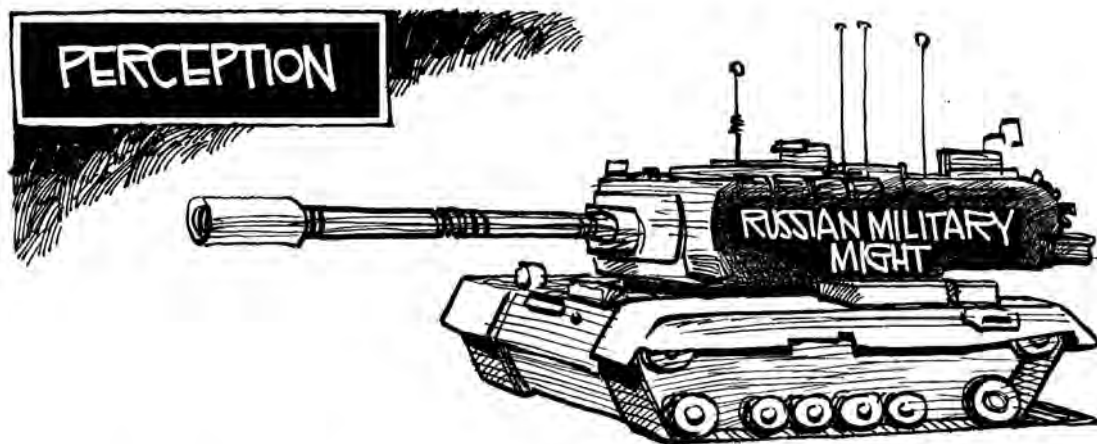
Although the Juul settlement puts a significant dent in the nicotine-addiction industry, there's still a long way to go before the industry is held fully accountable for its ongoing, deliberate effort to get more Americans hooked and keep them hooked to help perpetuate a billion-dollar industry. It ranks along with opioid producers among the most predatory and despicable legal businesses in existence.

Studies indicate nicotine is as addictive as cocaine or heroin, which makes it doubly appalling that any company would target their products at kids.

Juul only launched its vaping product in 2015, but in

See JUUL on Next Page

PERCEPTION



REALITY



WEEKEND
MIKE SMITH
DISTRIBUTING FEATURES SYNDICATE/MS

Five financial tips for incoming college students

I've been teaching an undergraduate class for almost 20 years called "The Economics of Desire." I always thought "desire" in the title was the attraction, but it turns out "economics" is the draw.

In some ways, today's students are more financially savvy than their predecessors — they score higher on financial literacy tests, are more likely to be invested in stocks and crypto, and some may even have taken high school money-management courses. Yet they still struggle to explain how markets work and are entering adulthood in an uncertain economy with rising prices everywhere they look.

For that reason, it's important for students heading to college now to focus on five tasks to get their financial lives in order: track spending, create a budget, clarify income sources, understand debt along with its returns, and stop buying just because.

Tracking spending is both the most difficult and useful part of any mature financial life. Learn this life skill at 19 and you are on your way to financial security. I advise keeping track with a notebook, or more realistically an app.

I like bucket budgets. One bucket is for recurring fixed expenses such as housing and transportation. The second bucket is for discretionary and somewhat recurring expenses like food, clothing and entertainment. The third bucket is the amount set aside for future spending. It's also important to know the details of what's covered under your health insurance plan, even if it's through a parent's plan or the university's. You may think you're young and healthy, but a car accident or sudden illness can be costly.

It's essential to itemize income sources, even if parents provide general promises to pay. Most college expenses are paid from student work, loans and parents. Ideally, young adults should know exactly how much college costs and which income sources will cover what, but that's rarely the reality. Most students don't have parents who budget or plan, so they must budget themselves and coax their parents to plan with them.

Too many times I find students who are in the dark and then left in the lurch when their parents find out they can't afford the cost or are disappointed with their grades. One student told me her parents took out two mortgages to pay for her undergraduate degree at an art school.

New York University anthropologist Caitlin Zaloom says families craft "financial imaginaries" where they think an expensive undergraduate degree will guarantee their child a career. In fact, they are performing a newly crafted middle-class parental

By **TERESA GHILARDUCCI**
Bloomberg Opinion

Teresa Ghilarducci is the Schwartz Professor of Economics at the New School for Social Research. She's the co-author of Rescuing Retirement and a member of the board of directors of the Economic Policy Institute.



virtue by doing everything they can to pay for a private college.

Understanding student loans involves more than what the financial aid officer tells you. Sure, the federal government has forgiven a portion of debt for some borrowers, but that doesn't mean taking out loans now are or will be eligible for relief.

It's important to research the future demand, educational requirements and compensation offered for the jobs students think they want. This exercise does what student aid officers don't do — it estimates cost and return. One dog-loving student changed her plan to be a veterinarian assistant after she learned it paid minimum wage. Film directing also fell out of favor.

Finally, ignoring your consumption psyche is an important life skill. Economist Juliet Schor explores the social reasons we buy what we don't want, and addiction expert Gabor Mate argues some shopping is compulsive and destructive. Needs and wants become blurred as humans buy to reward themselves, opt for brand names or just wind up buying what other people are buying.

This behavior is not shameful because humans are social, and having a certain type of good (like a luxury handbag) is a shorthand for status placement in a social hierarchy. Thorstein Veblen, an economist, noted in 1899 how a husband paid to dress his wife to increase his social status. Nowadays, Instagram creates Veblen goods from photos of "experiences."

While about half of US states now require that high school students take a personal finance class to graduate, none teach the psychology of advertising and consuming.

I have taught my class on economics and desire for 19 years — 15 at the University of Notre Dame and the past four at The New School. I guess students are learning something: Recently, two first-year students told me they were transferring to their state schools for half the price, reasoning they would enroll back in a private school for the last two years.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Putin and the possibility of defeat in Ukraine

There were fireworks in Moscow as the Russian military retreated hastily from the key town of Izyum in Ukraine's Kharkiv region on Sept. 10. The Russian capital wasn't actually celebrating the debacle: The display was part of its City Day festivities. But there could hardly be a better illustration of the Putin regime's utter unpreparedness for defeat. Its attempt to prosecute a war of invasion while keeping up the appearance of life going on as usual was doomed from the start—and the choices it faces now are stark.

In a matter of days, Ukraine pushed the Russian troops out of the Kharkiv Region. This may not look like a major victory in terms of territory regained—some 2,500 square kilometers, or a little more by now, out of the 125,000 square kilometers Russia held in Ukraine before this week. Yet Ukrainian and Western jubilation is justified.

The Kharkiv region has historically been ruthless to hubris. As Russian forces were routed there in the last few days, many commentators recalled the disastrous 1942 push by Marshal Semyon Timoshenko against a smaller German force in the area, which deftly moved to cut off Moscow's forces off from the north. Some 250,000 Soviet troops were taken prisoner. The fiasco opened the path for Hitler's armies to reach Stalingrad, where they were only stopped at an enormous cost in human lives.

The current Russian setback, too, is strategically significant. The loss of the Kharkiv positions turns the goal of encircling Ukrainian forces in the Donetsk region into a pipe dream: Russian troops can no longer press on from the north. The invading army retreated to avoid being blocked from supply lines and reinforcements. However, the Russians couldn't avoid damage to their already low morale.

Putin's soldiers are digging in on the eastern bank of the river Oskil, but the defensive positions lack depth, just as they did around Izyum. The Russian forces—including those in areas held by Russian proxies since 2014—will be vulnerable to further Ukrainian counterattacks, which are expected now in both the Luhansk and Donetsk regions.

These thrusts will seek to take advantage of what may prove to be Russia's biggest mistake of the entire hubristic

and fratricidal campaign. Since the retreat from Kyiv and northern Ukraine in April, the Russian command has used the fighting forces of the self-proclaimed Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics as cannon fodder. By doing so, they have lost thousands of the only soldiers who had skin in Putin's game: These fighting-age men were anti-Ukrainian by definition—and committed to combat as fiercely as Ukrainians themselves. Few Russian soldiers could match their determination. When Kyiv began its counterattack, the Luhansk and Donetsk fighters had been nearly eliminated by attrition.

Indeed, the positions in the Kharkiv region were manned by Russia's regular military, fighting for cash: They folded without putting up much of a fight when Ukrainians pushed hard enough.

Now, the Luhansk People's Republic, "apart from frontline areas, is probably empty of manpower," tweeted Polish military analyst Konrad Muzyka, one of the most astute observers of the campaign. Fighting-age males were drafted in large numbers in the past few months, he said, meaning "there are no men to fight in Luhansk."

To hold on to the bulk of the conquered territory, Russia urgently needs to shrink the front and bring in reserves. It's going to be hard to do either fast enough to counter Ukraine's momentum. Even a general mobilization would now come too late to prevent further defeats. The Russian far right has insisted from the start it would be necessary to win the war.

Now, even those locals who otherwise would have welcomed a Russian takeover will withhold their support. They will either lay low or aid Ukrainian guerillas. The loud assurances of many a Russian functionary since February that "Russia is here for good" ring hollow as the cars of fleeing collaborators line up on the border near Belgorod.

Further supplies of sophisticated Western weapons are now assured for Ukraine. Kyiv has proved it's able to fight back and win, so there's no reason for NATO to doubt the efficiency of its aid.

In Russia, meanwhile, an angry and aggrieved extreme nationalist community is rapidly turning into a threat to the regime. Since the start of the invasion, it's been the only one allowed relatively free expression because it is staunchly pro-

By **LEONID BERSHIDSKY**

Bloomberg Opinion

Leonid Bershidsky, formerly Bloomberg Opinion's Europe columnist, is a member of the Bloomberg News Automation Team. He recently published Russian translations of George Orwell's 1984 and Franz Kafka's The Trial.



war. The narrative dominant on the far right on Telegram channels is now full of indignation over the incompetence of the corrupt military and political leadership. They are propagating a backstabbers theory focused on leaders of the "special military operation" who aren't ethnic Russians—like Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, who is from Tuva near Mongolia—or Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov. Given the ultranationalists' high support in Russia's all-powerful law enforcement agencies, it's conceivable that discontent may be brewing among the very forces on which Putin has relied to hold on to power.

It's too early to predict a military rout for the entire Russian force in Ukraine, let alone a regime collapse. But suddenly, those are glimmers of possibility thanks to what is essentially a local Ukrainian success. This is a consequence of the most fundamental flaw in the thinking behind Putin's Ukraine campaign—if there was any thinking done at all amid all the imperialist emotion. Russia never took its opponent seriously, never even considered Ukraine a viable entity. So it never contemplated the possibility of defeat.

No plans were made for pessimistic scenarios—and none seem to exist today. In a war, the side that isn't prepared for setbacks can come apart at the first signs of trouble; overconfidence and panic are opposite sides of the same coin. Russians went in without the will to win, but they were also not primed for the risk of losing. Any setback then becomes a catastrophic blow to national pride. This will rankle even if Russia manages to halt Ukraine's current momentum. These factors could be the ingredients of a historic defeat.

Isn't it time we stop hitting our kids?

It's odd: You're having dinner with friends in a nice restaurant. One of them reaches for the breadsticks and carelessly elbows his water glass, swamping the tablecloth.

Immediately, his concerned fellow diners express solicitude and reassurance in response to the abashed offender's apologies. Spare napkins are offered to stem the flood. In no time the water glass is replaced and normalcy restored.

But when a kid does the same thing, in many families the immediate consequence is a swat or a slap or, at best, a severe public reprimand.

What accounts for this discrepancy in how we treat children and how we treat adults?

In fact, apart from boxers and hockey players, children are the only members of our society whom we hit with impunity.

Men often used to get away with hitting women, but our society has appropriately clamped down on that deplorable practice. But with children, we not only permit the hitting, we sometimes encourage it.

Recently Missouri's Cassville school district reversed its ban

on corporal punishment and will now allow "swatting the buttocks with a paddle" when "alternative means of discipline have failed."

Younger students are limited to one or two swats; older students can be swatted up to three times. Which is slightly counterintuitive; our society outlawed corporal punishment for adults long ago, but in school the older you are the more you can be hit.

Cassville isn't an outlier: 19 states, mostly in the South and West, permit corporal punishment in public schools.

But most youngsters are more likely to be hit at home than at school. In fact, we spank our kids a lot.

One study from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill indicates that the "spanking rate" for 3- to 5-year-olds is 80%.

More recent polling indicates that the incidence of spanking is decreasing. The journal JAMA Pediatrics reported a drop in the proportion of parents who spank from 50% in 1993 to 35% in 2017.

This is a move in the right direction, but not all parents—or public schools!—have gotten the message. Spanking is a regular element of many children's childhoods.

Some parents justify spanking by arguing that children need discipline. They turn to our Judeo-Christian tradition for support. Proverbs 19:18, for example, says, "Chastise your son while there is hope for him, but be careful not to flog him to death."

The limitation in the second clause is good advice, but it sounds more like the sentiments of an entitled, overbearing patriarch than those of a loving god. A few lines away, the writer muses: "... a nagging wife is like water dripping endlessly."

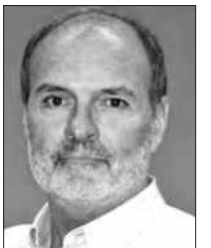
For spankers, the Bible provides a rationale rather than a reason. I suspect that the real reasons we spank our children have more to do with the power relationship than with judicious attempts to discipline. We spank them because we can.

Combine that idea with the fact that nearly all spankings are

By **JOHN M. CRISP**

Tribune News Service

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fueled by anger and frustration, and the result is an unhealthy environment for many American children.

For decades, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the professional organization of 67,000 pediatricians, has been emphatic: It "strongly opposes striking a child for any reason. Spanking is never recommended."

This position is grounded in research that indicates that any corporal punishment is linked to bad consequences for children.

In 2002 Elizabeth Gershoff, then of Columbia University, conducted a meta-analysis of 88 studies that identifies a correlation between "ordinary spanking" and bad outcomes, even when abusive practices—beating, kicking, burning—are factored out.

What sort of bad outcomes? A study of 2,500 children, conducted by Catherine Taylor of Tulane University, found that spanking is a strong predictor of aggression, defiance, temper tantrums, frustration and physical abuse of other children and animals.

This explains why more than 30 nations have banned spanking, at school or at home. In the United States, we are unlikely to pass laws that interfere with how parents treat their children at home.

But, at the least, the discredited practice of spanking should have no place in our public schools.






JUUL

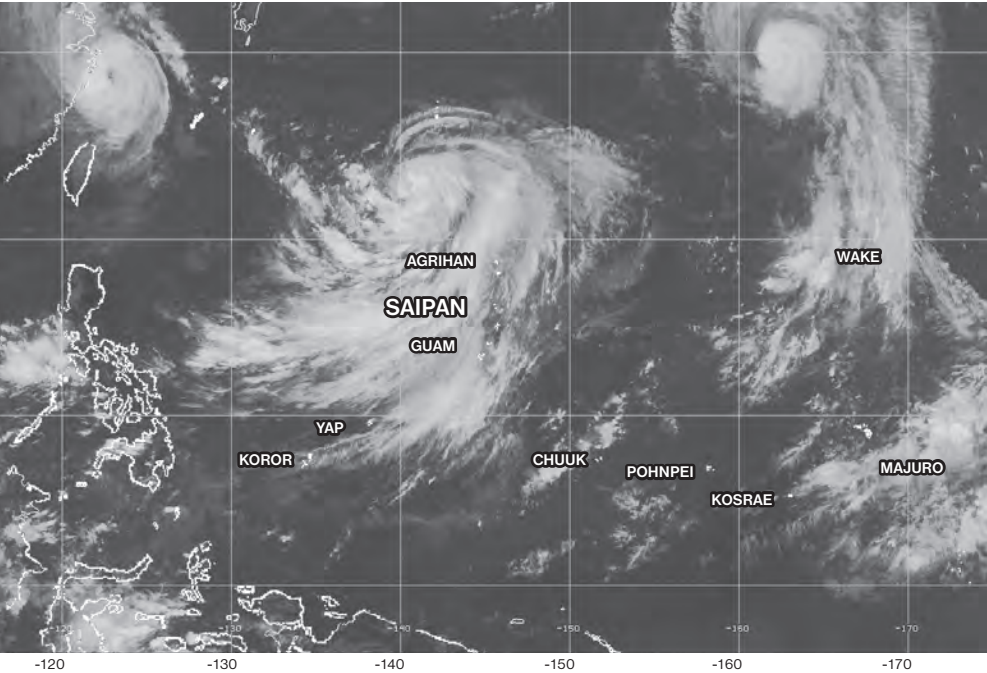
From Page 8

that short span, it gained a 75% share of the vaping industry, only to drop back to control about a third of the market amid a succession of costly lawsuits. The American Lung Association says Big Tobacco is stepping into Juul's vacuum with more campaigns aimed at kids while marketing vaping products to adults as a safe alternative to tobacco.

By any other name, they are still just selling nicotine addiction, which makes them no less pernicious than a street-corner drug dealer.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy		Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy		Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy		A chance of showers. Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	
84°	76°	85°	77°	87°	78°	86°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:05 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate southwest winds and mostly cloudy skies remain across the Marianas this morning. Radar shows scattered showers, with occasional lightning strikes indicated by lightning detection data. But thus far, very little rain has moved across Guam or Saipan. Seas are near 4 ft at Tanapag and and Ritidian buoys, but only 2.5 ft at Ipan, which is shielded from west or northwest swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F		
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:18 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:18 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:17 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:16 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:16 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:09 AM	9:49 PM
Friday	-	11:02 AM	10:33 PM
Saturday	-	11:55 AM	11:19 PM
Sunday	-	12:48 PM	-
Monday	12:09 AM	1:40 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	59° / 48°
Beijing	Sunny	86° / 65°
Hong Kong	Sunny	92° / 83°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87° / 74°
London	Showers	67° / 50°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	81° / 64°
Manila	Scattered Thunderstorms	90° / 75°
Melbourne	Scattered Thunderstorms	64° / 50°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
New York	Sunny	82° / 63°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	91° / 75°
Paris	Light Rain	74° / 55°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	80° / 73°
Rome	Thunderstorms	84° / 72°
Salem	Sunny	86° / 63°
San Francisco	Cloudy	71° / 60°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 70°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	80° / 66°
Washington, DC	Sunny	82° / 63°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
5:01 AM	Low Tide	0.29
11:26 AM	High Tide	1.71
5:12 PM	Low Tide	1.01
10:28 PM	High Tide	1.76

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6	UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily	PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
SAIPAN-NARITA				NARITA-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:00AM	9:30AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00 AM+1	2, 4, 7
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	4
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3, 4, 7	7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	3, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
				TW307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
				TW307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:00PM	6:35PM	3, 7	BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7	7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)	7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.		10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)	4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.		9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.		2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.		12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.		6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun				
				3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

Whistleblower: China, India had agents working for Twitter

WASHINGTON (AP)—Twitter's former security chief told Congress Tuesday there was "at least one agent" from China's intelligence service on Twitter's payroll and that the company knowingly allowed India to add agents to the company roster as well, potentially giving those nations access to sensitive data about users.

These were some of the troubling revelations from Peiter "Mudge" Zatkan, a respected cybersecurity expert and Twitter whistleblower who appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee to lay out his allegations against the company.

Zatkan told lawmakers that the social media platform is plagued by weak cyber defenses that make it vulnerable to exploitation by "teenagers, thieves and spies" and put the privacy of its users at risk.

"I am here today because Twitter leadership is misleading the public, lawmakers, regulators and even its own board

of directors," Zatkan said as he began his sworn testimony.

"They don't know what data they have, where it lives and where it came from and so, unsurprisingly, they can't protect it," Zatkan said. "It doesn't matter who has keys if there are no locks."

"Twitter leadership ignored its engineers," he said, in part because "their executive incentives led them to prioritize profit over security."

In a statement, Twitter said its hiring process is "independent of any foreign influence" and access to data is managed through a host of measures, including background checks, access controls, and monitoring and detection systems and processes.

One issue that didn't come up in the hearing was the question of whether Twitter is accurately counting its active users, an important metric for its advertisers. Tesla CEO Elon Musk, who is trying to get out

of a \$44 billion deal to buy Twitter, has argued without evidence that many of Twitter's roughly 238 million daily users are fake or malicious accounts, aka "spam bots."

Even so, "that doesn't mean that Musk won't use Zatkan's allegation that Twitter was disinterested in removing bots to try to bolster his argument for walking away from the deal," said Insider Intelligence analyst Jasmine Enberg.

The Delaware judge overseeing the case ruled last week that Musk can include new evidence

related to Zatkan's allegations in the high-stakes trial, which is set to start Oct. 17. During the hearing, Musk tweeted a popcorn emoji, often used to suggest that one is sitting back in anticipation of unfolding drama.

Separately on Tuesday, Twitter's shareholders voted overwhelmingly to approve the deal, according to multiple media reports. Shareholders have been voting re-



Zatkan

motely on the issue for weeks. The vote was largely a formality, particularly given Musk's efforts to nullify the deal, although it does clear a legal hurdle to closing the sale.

Zatkan's message echoed one brought to Congress against another social media giant last year. But unlike that Facebook whistleblower, Frances Haugen, Zatkan hasn't brought troves of internal documents

to back up his claims.

Zatkan was the head of security for the influential platform until he was fired early this year. He filed a whistleblower complaint in July with Congress, the Justice Department, the Federal Trade Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Among his most serious accusations is that Twitter violated the terms of a 2011 FTC settlement by falsely claiming that it had put stronger measures in place to protect the security and privacy of its users.

UK MEMORABILIA

Museum owner Bryan Ong looks at old postage stamps from British Hong Kong, at the private museum The Museum Victoria City, that showcases royal items like postcards, commemorative coins, old banknotes, old postage stamps and various memorabilia in Hong Kong, on Sept. 10, 2022. Ong said the Hong Kong people feel an emotional connection to the Queen because of the colonial history of the city.

AP PHOTO/ALICE FUNG



UN: Food exports from Ukraine are up, Russia fertilizer down

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Food exports from Ukraine and Russia have increased since a July 22 grain deal, but critically needed fertilizer exports from Russia are still down despite being covered by the agreement, with financing and shipping still issues, the United Nations said Tuesday.

U.N. trade chief Rebeca Grynspan, who leads the team trying to facilitate unimpeded global access to Russian food and fertilizer, said Russia reported a 12% increase in food exports from June to July. But while there has been "important progress," the U.N. is concerned about fertilizer exports needed by October and November, the latest for the northern hemisphere planting season, she said.

Fertilizers now are three times the price they were before the COVID-19 pandemic hit in early 2020, Grynspan said, adding that "the crisis of affordability that we have now will be a catastrophic crisis if we don't solve the problem of fertilizer."

As an example, she said the sowing season for new crops in West Africa is over and planting was down by a very high percentage because of fertilizer costs.

Grynspan told a U.N. press conference by video from Geneva that the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization reported that food prices declined globally in August for the fifth straight month. But

she expressed concern that this decrease has not been seen in domestic markets, and developing countries especially are still struggling with high food prices as well as inflation, currency devaluations and interest rate hikes.

Amir Abdulla, the United Nations coordinator for the deal to ship Ukrainian grain, said 129 fully laden ships carrying over 2.8 million tons of grain have left the three designated Ukrainian Black Sea ports for different countries.

With grain prices dropping, Abdulla said, the U.N. has seen that people who had been hoarding grain to sell at high prices are now putting it on the market in one or two countries. "Hopefully that will bring some of those local prices down" he said by video from Istanbul.

On July 22, Russia and Ukraine signed separate agreements with Turkey and the United Nations clearing the way for the export of desperately needed grain and fertilizer, ending a wartime standoff that threatened food security around the globe. The deal expires in November after 120 days and can be renewed.

Abdulla said the U.N. has "very positive messages from Turkey" that they want grain shipments to continue, "and we are hoping that with their influence, with U.N. mediation efforts ... it won't really be a matter for discussion."

Biden touts inflation reduction law despite sobering report

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden gathered a crowd of thousands at the White House Tuesday to celebrate last month's passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, even as a new government report showed how hard it could be to bring surging prices down near prepandemic levels.

Despite its name, the law's impact on inflation is expected to be modest at best.

Tuesday's economic report—inflation at 8.3% year-to-year, though just 0.1% from July to August—was a harsh reminder of how difficult it

might be to hit the Federal Reserve's inflation target of 2% a year. Even as gasoline prices have declined since June, the costs of housing and food remain especially high in a way that suggests further Fed rate hikes and more economic pain to bring down prices.

U.S. stock indices fell sharply on the inflation report, with the benchmark S&P 500 down more than 4.3% on Tuesday.



Biden

Still, Biden and congressional leaders hailed the new law, with the president raising his voice and taking off his jacket in campaign style at the event on the White House South Lawn.

"With this law the American people won and special interests lost," Biden said, taking a victory lap for legislation that rounded out the last piece of his domestic agenda for his first two years in office.

The legislation, which passed

with only Democratic votes in Congress, also included the most substantial federal investment in history to fight climate change—some \$375 billion over a decade—and will cap prescription drug costs at \$2,000 out-of-pocket annually for Medicare recipients. It also would help an estimated 13 million Americans pay for health care insurance by extending subsidies provided during the coronavirus pandemic. The measure is paid for by new taxes on large companies and stepped-up IRS enforcement on wealthy individuals and entities.

Starbucks to revamp stores to speed service, boost morale

Starbucks—ringing up record sales but struggling with low employee morale—plans to spend \$450 million next year to make its North American stores more efficient and less complex.

The company also said it plans to open 2,000 net new stores in the U.S. by 2025, with an emphasis on meeting the growing demand for new types of service, including drive-thru, mobile ordering and delivery. Drive-thru now makes up 50% of U.S. sales, for example,

while delivery demand has grown by 24% so far this year.

"It's clear that our physical stores have to change. Our physical stores were built for a different era," said John Culver, Starbucks' chief operating officer, at a day-long event for investors in Seattle Tuesday.

Culver said customizable cold drinks—which now make up as many as 75% of Starbucks' U.S. beverage orders—are taxing employees in kitchens designed for simpler

hot drinks. Starbucks debuted a new work station that requires less movement and can cut 50 seconds off the process of making a blended iced mocha. It also announced a new patented technology that will cut the time needed to make cold brew coffee from 20 hours to a few seconds.

The introduction of an increasing number of hot food items is also slowing Starbucks' kitchens. Culver said Starbucks expects to serve

300 million breakfast sandwiches in the U.S. this year, each of which takes up to 85 seconds to warm in its ovens. Starbucks plans to start cooking them in batches and storing them in warmers next to the drive-thru windows.

The company touted other upcoming benefits for workers, including more flexible scheduling, more generous sick time accrual and expanded ability for mobile customers to tip.

Nation

Package explodes on Boston campus; 1 injured, FBI involved

BOSTON (AP)—A package exploded on the campus of Northeastern University in Boston late Tuesday, and the college said a staff member suffered minor injuries.

Authorities said another

suspicious package was found near a prominent art museum and the FBI was assisting with the investigation.

The parcel that blew up was one of two that were reported to police early in the evening.

Boston's bomb squad neutralized a second package near the city's Museum of Fine Arts, which is on the outskirts of the Northeastern campus.

NBC Boston reported that the package that exploded

went off as it was being opened near the university's Holmes Hall, which is home to the university's creative writing program and its women's, gender and sexuality studies program. It said the FBI was assisting

the investigation.

Authorities declined to elaborate, but Northeastern spokesperson Shannon Nargi said in a statement that an unidentified university staff member suffered minor injuries to his hand in the explosion. Felipe Colon, a Boston police superintendent, later described the victim as a 45-year-old man.

Police converged on the campus shortly before 7:30 p.m., and the university asked students who had gathered for an evening journalism class at the hall to evacuate the building.

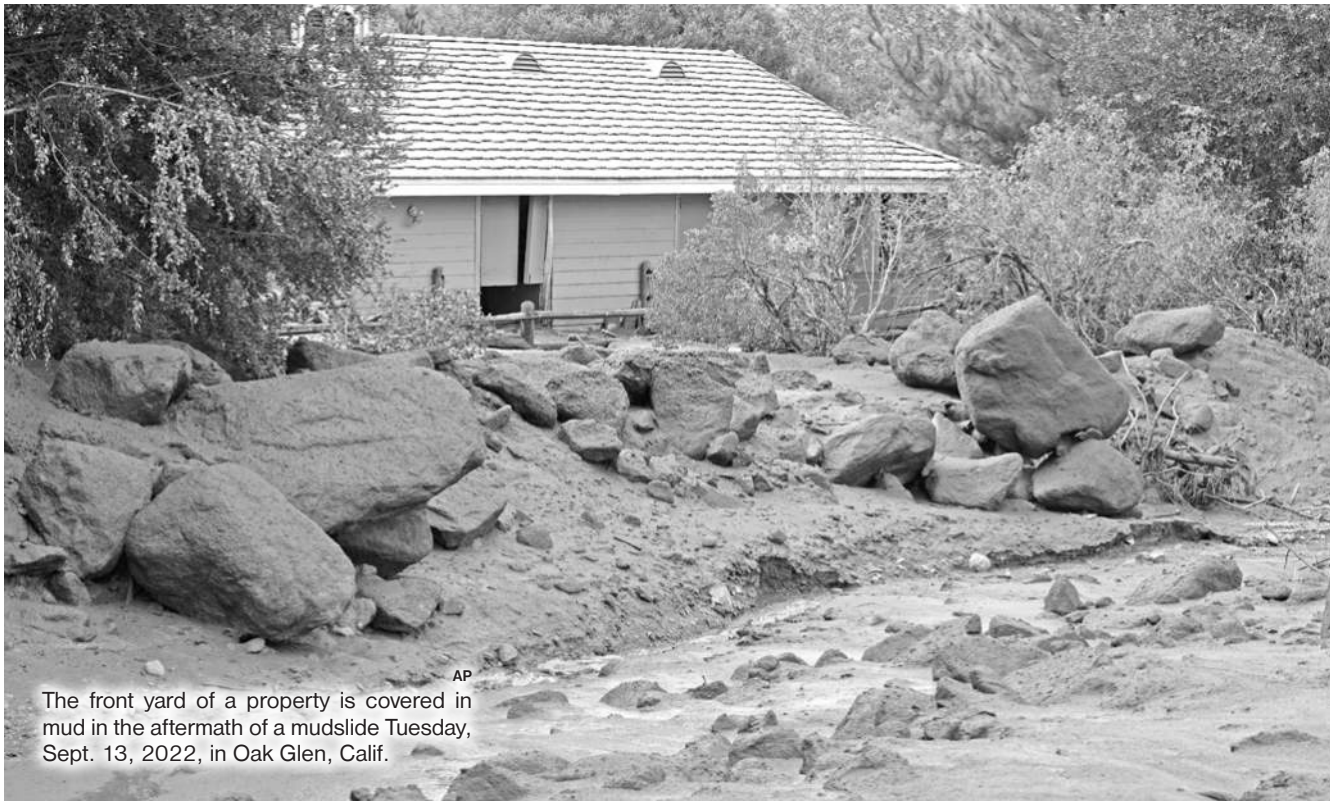
Northeastern is a private university in downtown Boston with about 16,000 undergraduate students. WCVB-TV said one of its reporters, Mike

Beaudet, was teaching a class there at the time. Beaudet told the station his class was moved outside but that neither he nor his students heard an explosion.

Michael Davis, chief of Northeastern's police force, told reporters the campus was secure. Boston police didn't say whether any other suspicious packages were found.

"We're monitoring the situation at Northeastern and we're ready to work with the university and our law enforcement partners on any prosecutions that may develop," Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden said, promising "a comprehensive investigation to determine exactly what occurred here."

Southern California mudslides damage homes, carry away cars



AP
The front yard of a property is covered in mud in the aftermath of a mudslide Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2022, in Oak Glen, Calif.

OAK GLEN, Calif. (AP)—Rescuers searched for a person missing in a mudslide Tuesday as big yellow tractors plowed through dark, thick sludge and pushed boulders off roads after flash floods swept dirt, rocks and trees down fire-scarred slopes, washed away cars and buried buildings in small mountain communities in Southern California.

With thunderstorms forecast and more mudslides possible into Wednesday, evacua-

tion orders remained in place in parts of the San Bernardino Mountains while a wildfire raging 500 miles (805 kilometers) to the north forced residents to abandon their homes.

The Mosquito Fire burning 110 miles (177 kilometers) northeast of San Francisco erupted in the afternoon just hours after officials had reported making "great strides" in the battle.

"We have all hands on deck," fire spokesperson Chris

Valenzuela said as the fire burned near Todd Valley and Foresthill. "It's burning very erratic and intensely."

The blaze was one of three large fires in the state.

East of Los Angeles, crews searched street by street for people who might be trapped by mudflows that washed with astonishing force the day before into Forest Falls, Oak Glen and Yucaipa and left a muddy mess and untold de-

struction.

Homes and other buildings were damaged, including a commercial building buried so high its roof collapsed, said Eric Sherwin, spokesperson for the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

"We have boulders that moved through that weigh multiple tons," Sherwin said. "It could take days just to find all the cars that are missing because they are completely covered by mud."

Driven by consumers, US inflation grows more persistent

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. inflation is showing signs of entering a more stubborn phase that will likely require drastic action by the Federal Reserve, a shift that has panicked financial markets and heightens the risks of a recession.

Some of the longtime drivers of higher inflation—spiking gas prices, supply chain snarls, soaring used-car prices—are fading. Yet underlying measures of inflation are actually worsening.

The ongoing evolution of the forces behind an inflation rate that's near a four-decade high has made it harder for the Fed to wrestle it under control. Prices are no longer rising because a few categories have skyrocketed in cost. Instead, inflation has now spread more widely through the economy, fueled by a strong job market that is boosting pay-

checks, forcing companies to raise prices to cover higher labor costs and giving more consumers the wherewithal to spend.

On Tuesday, the government said inflation ticked up 0.1% from July to August and 8.3%

from a year ago, which was down from June's four-decade high of 9.1%

But excluding the volatile categories of food and energy, so-called core prices jumped by an unexpectedly sharp 0.6% from

July to August, after a milder 0.3% rise the previous month. The Fed monitors core prices closely, and the latest figures heightened fears of an even more aggressive Fed and sent stocks plunging, with the Dow Jones collapsing more than 1,200 points.

The core price figures solidified worries that inflation has now spread into all corners of the economy.

"One of the most remarkable things is how broad-based the price gains are," said Matthew Luzzetti, chief U.S. economist at Deutsche Bank. "The underlying trend in inflation certainly has not shown any progress toward moderating so far. And that should be a worry to the Fed because the price gains have become increasingly demand-driven, and therefore likely to be more persistent."



AP
Shoppers look for school supplies at a store, Wednesday, July 27, 2022, in South Miami, Fla.

GOP's Graham unveils nationwide abortion ban bill after 15 weeks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Upending the political debate, Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham introduced a nationwide abortion ban Tuesday, sending shockwaves through both parties and igniting fresh debate on a fraught issue weeks before the midterm elections that will determine control of Congress.

Graham's own Republican Party leaders did not immediately embrace his abortion ban bill, which would prohibit the procedure after 15 weeks of pregnancy with rare exceptions, and has almost no chance of becoming law in the Democratic-held Congress. Democrats torched it as an alarming signal of where "MAGA" Republicans are headed if they win control of the House and Senate in November.

"America's got to make some decisions," Graham said at a news conference at the Capitol.

The South Carolina Republican said that rather than shying away from the Supreme Court's ruling this summer overturning Roe v. Wade's nearly 50-year right to abortion access, Republicans are preparing to fight to make a nationwide abortion ban federal law.

"Oh, no, no, no, no, no, no, we're going nowhere," the senator said while flanked by female advocates from the anti-abortion movement. "We welcome the debate. We welcome the vote in the United States Senate as to what America should look like in 2022."

Reaction was swift,

fierce and unwavering from Democrats who viewed Graham's legislation as an extreme example of the far-right's hold on the GOP, and as a political gift of self-inflicted pain for Republican candidates now having to answer questions about an abortion ban heading toward the midterm elections.

"A nationwide abortion ban—that's the contrast between the two parties, plain and simple," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said.

Sen. Patty Murray, a Democrat from Washington who is in her own fight for reelection, said Republicans "want to force" women to stay pregnant and deliver babies.

"To anyone who thought they were safe, here is the painful reality," she said. "Republicans are coming for your rights."

The sudden turn of events comes in a razor-tight election season as Republicans hoping to win control of Congress are struggling to recapture momentum, particularly after the Supreme Court's landmark decision sparked deep concerns among some voters, with signs of female voters peeling away from the GOP.

In a midterm election where the party out of the White House traditionally holds an advantage, even more so this year with President Joe Biden's lackluster approval ratings, the Democrats have regained their own momentum pushing back the GOP candidates in House and Senate races.

Asia

Under COVID lockdown, Xinjiang residents complaining of hunger

BEIJING (AP)—Residents of a city in China's far west Xinjiang region say they are experiencing hunger, forced quarantines and dwindling supplies of medicine and daily necessities after more than 40 days in a virus lockdown.

Hundreds of posts from Ghulja riveted users of Chinese social media last week, with residents sharing videos of empty fridges, feverish children, and people screaming from their windows.

The dire conditions and

food shortages are reminiscent of a harsh lockdown in Shanghai this spring, when thousands of residents posted online, complaining they were delivered rotting vegetables or denied critical medical care.

But unlike in Shanghai, a glittering, cosmopolitan metropolis of 20 million people and home to many foreigners, the harsh lockdowns in smaller cities such as Ghulja have received less attention.

As more infectious variants of the coronavirus creep into China, flare-ups have become increasingly common. Under China's "zero-COVID" strategy, tens of millions of people are experiencing rolling lockdowns, paralyzing the economy and making travel uncertain.

The lockdown in Ghulja is also evoking fears of police brutality among the Uyghurs, the Turkic ethnic group native to Xinjiang. For years,

the region has been the target of a sweeping security crackdown, ensnaring huge numbers of Uyghurs and other largely Muslim minorities in a vast network of camps and prisons. An earlier lockdown in Xinjiang was particularly tough, with forced medication, arrests, and residents being hosed down with disinfectant.

Yasinuf, a Uyghur studying at a university in Europe, said his mother-in-law sent fearful

voice messages this weekend saying she was being forced into centralized quarantine because of a mild cough. The officers coming for her reminded her, she said, of the time her husband was taken to a camp for over two years.

"It's judgement day," she sighed, in an audio recording reviewed by The Associated Press. "We don't know what's going to happen this time. All we can do now is to trust our creator."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japanese emperor, empress to attend queen's funeral

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako will travel to Britain to attend Queen Elizabeth II's state funeral next week to pay respects to her, Japan's top government spokesperson said Wednesday. Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said the Japanese government requested they accept the British royals' invitation to attend, considering the close relations between the two countries' royal families. Traditionally, a Japanese emperor stays away from funerals whether at home or abroad because of a cultural belief based in the Shinto religion that considers death impure. The decision for Naruhito to attend the queen's funeral underscores the importance and the deep bond between the royal families. Matsuno said Japan's imperial family has had close relations with Britain's Royal Family for three generations including Naruhito's grandfather, late Emperor Hirohito.

Thai soldier arrested after allegedly killing 2, injuring 1

BANGKOK (AP)—A clerk shot at his co-workers at Thailand's Army War College early Wednesday, killing two people and wounding another, the army said. One man died at the scene and another died after being taken to the hospital, the Thai army said in a statement. The wounded man was being treated at a hospital. The alleged assailant, Sgt. Yongyuth Mungkorngim, fled the scene but was arrested outside the Army Training Command compound, which houses the Army War College, in the capital Bangkok. Television footage showed Sgt. Yongyuth, dressed in his army uniform, in police custody outside the military facility.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Ukraine's military claims downing Iran drone used by Russia

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukraine's military claimed Tuesday for the first time that it encountered an Iranian-supplied suicide drone used by Russia on the battlefield, showing the deepening ties between Moscow and Tehran as the Islamic Republic's tattered nuclear deal with world powers hangs in the balance. U.S. intelligence publicly warned back in July that Tehran planned to send hundreds of bomb-carrying drones to Russia to aid its war on Ukraine. While Iran initially denied it, the head of its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard has boasted in recent days about arming the world's top powers. The Ukrainian military's Strategic Communications Directorate published images of the wreckage of the drone. It resembled a triangle, or delta-shaped, drone flown by Iran known as the Shahed-136, or "Witness" in Farsi.

Ancient skeleton found in Mexico cave threatened by train

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A prehistoric human skeleton has been found in a cave system that was flooded at the end of the last ice age 8,000 years ago, according to a cave-diving archaeologist on Mexico's Caribbean coast. Archaeologist Octavio del Rio said he and fellow diver Peter Broger saw the shattered skull and skeleton partly covered by sediment in a cave near where the Mexican government plans to build a high-speed tourist train through the jungle. Given the distance from the cave entrance, the skeleton couldn't have gotten there without modern diving equipment, so it must be over 8,000 years old, Del Rio said, referring to the era when rising sea levels flooded the caves. "There it is. We don't know if the body was deposited there or if that was where this person died," said Del Rio. He said that the skeleton was located about 8 meters (26 feet) underwater, about a half-kilometer (one third of a mile) into the cave system.

We, the family of the late

† **JOSEPH JOHN
MAFNAS BORJA**



wish to express our most heartfelt gratitude to our relatives and friends near and far, who have comforted us as we mourned the passing of our beloved +Joseph John "JJ Koichi". We will always remember your kindness and compassion and most especially prayers during the daily masses and funeral.

We are sincerely appreciative to the Saipan Mayor's Office and numerous individuals for their contributions and to Oh My Grill for their generous contribution, Natibu Catering and Shirley's Catering for always making time to cater our meals especially under short notice. We would also like to thank and show great gratitude to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Lt. C Frank Babauta, Department of Fire, all the CHCC staff for taking part in laying our beloved to rest and the E Co., 100th Battalion 442nd Infantry for bidding farewell to their fallen brother with their unit song "Go for Broke".

To Borja's Funeral Home and to the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, most especially Rev. Fr. Arman Hagos, Rev. Fr. Jesse Reyes and Deacon Stanley Benavente, the Saint Jude Thaddaeus Choir and our Techa Rose Magofna "Nan Ocha", we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for a beautiful celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial on September 8, 2022 as we bid one last farewell to +Joseph John "JJ Koichi". We are forever grateful.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase/Thank You

From Theresita P. Mafnas/ Brothers and Sisters.

Fatima I. Borja, Children and Grandchildren.

Environment

'Clairvoyant' 2012 climate report warned of extreme weather



AP
Victims of flooding from monsoon rains carry belongings salvaged from their flooded home in the Dadu district of Sindh Province, of Pakistan, Sept. 9, 2022.

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP SCIENCE WRITER

Record high temperatures in urban Europe as heat waves bake the planet more often. Devastating floods, some in poorer unprepared areas. Increasing destruction from hurricanes. Drought and famine in poorer parts of Africa as dry spells worsen across the globe. Wild weather worldwide getting stronger and more frequent, resulting “in unprecedented extremes.”

Sound like the last few summers?

It is. But it was also the warning and forecast for the future issued by top United Nations climate scientists more than 10 years ago.

In a report that changed the

way the world thinks about the harms of global warming, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s special report on extreme events, disasters and climate change warned in 2012: “A changing climate leads to changes in the frequency, intensity, spatial extent, duration, and timing of extreme weather and climate events, and can result in unprecedented extreme weather and climate events.” It said there would be more heat waves, worsening droughts, increasing downpours causing floods and stronger and wetter tropical cyclones and simply nastier disasters for people.

“The report was clairvoyant,” said report co-author Michael Oppenheimer, a Princeton University climate

scientist. “The report was exactly what a climate report should do: Warn us about the future in time for us to adapt before the worst stuff happens. And the world proceeded to do what it usually does. Some people and governments listened, others didn’t. I think the sad lesson is the damage has to occur very close to home or else nobody pays attention now.”

In just the United States alone, the number of weather disasters that cost at least \$1 billion in damage—adjusted for inflation—went from an average of 8.4 a year in the decade before the report was issued to 14.3 a year after the report came out, with more than a trillion dollars in U.S. weather damage since in just

the billion-dollar extremes, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Unprecedented record heat hit Northern California in September and 104 degrees in England (40 degrees Celsius) earlier this summer.

The 594-page report’s 20-page summary highlighted five case studies of climate risks from worsening extreme weather that scientists said will be more of a problem and how governments could deal with them. In each case scientists were able to give a recent example:

■ Flash floods in “informal settlements.” Look at flooding in poor sections of Durban, South Africa, this year, said report co-author and climate scientist Maarten van Aalst, director of the International

Red Cross and Crescent Climate Centre in the Netherlands. Or Eastern Kentucky or the Pakistan this year or Germany and Belgium last year, report authors said.

■ Heat waves in urban Europe. “We’ve got that one in spades. That’s been consistent,” said Susan Cutter, a University of South Carolina disaster scientist. “I think every year there have been longer periods of heat in Europe.”

■ Increasing property losses from hurricanes in the United States and the Caribbean as storms get wetter and stronger, but not more frequent. Oppenheimer pointed to the last few years when Louisiana has been smacked repeatedly by hurricanes, last year when Hurricane Ida

killed people in New York because of heavy rainfall flooding basement apartments and 2017 when record rain from Hurricane Harvey paralyzed Houston and Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico with Hurricane Irma in between.

■ Droughts causing famine in Africa. That’s happening again in the Horn of Africa and last year in Madagascar, van Aalst said.

■ Small islands being inundated by a combination of sea level rise, saltwater intrusion and storms. That’s tougher, but co-author Kris Ebi, a University of Washington climate and health scientist, pointed to record strong Tropical cyclone Winston striking Vanuatu and Fiji in 2016.

RENO, Nev. (AP)—Conservationists are seeking Endangered Species Act protection for a tiny snail half the size of a pea that is known to exist only in high-desert springs near a huge lithium mine planned in Nevada along the Oregon state line.

The Western Watersheds Project filed the listing petition last week with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Kings River pryg, a springsnail found in 13 isolated springs around Thacker Pass 200 miles (321 kilometers) northeast of Reno.

It says the biggest threat to the snail’s survival is disruption of groundwater flows as a result of the 370-foot-deep

Endangered status sought for snail near Nevada lithium mine

(113-meter), open-pit mine that the Bureau of Land Management approved last year and is currently being challenged in U.S. District Court in Reno.

Other threats to the snail’s survival include livestock grazing, road construction and climate change, the petition said.

“Federal land managers put this aquatic snail in the crosshairs of extinction by hastily approving large-scale lithium mining at Thacker Pass,” said Erik Molvar, executive director of the Idaho-based group.

Ramped-up domestic production of lithium is key to President Joe Biden’s blue-



AP
This photo provided by Lynne Buckner shows a Kings River pryg, a springsnail found in 13 isolated springs around Thacker Pass, 200 miles northeast of Reno, Nev., on April 7, 2022.

print for a greener future, a critical element for electric ve-

hicle batteries. Worldwide demand for lithium is projected

to increase six-fold by 2030 compared with 2020.

Molvar, a wildlife biologist, agrees the nation must “transition from the dirty fossil fuels that are responsible for climate change” but not by mining in sensitive habitats.

“We have a responsibility as a society to avoid wreaking ecological havoc as we shift to renewable technologies,” he said.

The snail’s shell is less than 2-millimeters (.08-inch) tall, according to the petition, which notes by comparison a U.S. nickel coin is 1.95 mm thick.

They have survived in isolated springs, which are rem-

nants of extensive waterways that have covered what is now dry land only to recede many times over the last 2 million years, the petition said.

Groundwater pumping associated with the mine will reduce or eliminate flows to the springs that support the snails, it says.

The lawsuit challenging Lithium Americas’ project was filed by a Nevada rancher Feb. 11, 2021 and later joined by area tribes and conservation groups, including Western Watersheds Project. It alleged the mining would violate federal protections of numerous species, including threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout and imperiled sage grouse.

Life & Style

Jury gets R. Kelly's child pornography and trial-fixing case

CHICAGO (AP)—Jurors began deliberating Tuesday at R. Kelly's federal trial in Chicago, sorting through a month of evidence and arguments on charges accusing the singer of producing child pornography, enticing minors for sex and rigging his 2008 child porn trial.

Standing at a podium a few feet in front of jurors, Kelly attorney Jennifer Bonjean told jurors in her closing earlier Tuesday that key government witnesses were admitted liars who testified with immunity to

ensure they couldn't be charged.

At times sounding indignant and raising her voice, Bonjean likened their testimony and other evidence to a cockroach and the government's case to a bowl of soup.

If a cockroach falls into soup, she said, "you don't just pull out the cockroach and eat the rest of the soup. You throw out the whole soup," said told jurors. She said of the



Kelly

prosecution's case: "There are just too many cockroaches."

As Bonjean spoke, Kelly, wearing a gray suit and black mask, looked calm at a nearby defense table. As a prosecutor spoke later and repeatedly looked toward Kelly, he often averted his eyes. Later, when the prosecutor described him abusing minors, he shook his head.

Jurors withdrew to start de-

liberating early Tuesday afternoon, heading home without reaching a verdict several hours later. They were set to pick up where they left off Wednesday morning.

Kelly, 55, was sentenced in June to 30 years in prison during a separate federal trial in New York where he was convicted of racketeering and sex trafficking. Convictions on just a few of the 13 counts Kelly faces at his current trial could add years to his imprisonment.

Delivering the government's rebuttal after Bonjean's

closing, prosecutor Jeannice Appenteng told jurors to remember the girls and women Kelly allegedly abused.

"When you are in the quiet of the jury room, consider the evidence in light of who is at the center of this case. Kelly's victims: Jane, Nia, Pauline, Tracy and Brittany," Appenteng said, referring to five Kelly accusers named in charging documents by their pseudonyms or first names.

Four of them testified. Brittany did not.

The prosecutor also pointed

to testimony that as Kelly's fame boomed in the mid-1990s, his staff and associates increasingly geared everything they did to what Kelly wanted.

"And ladies and gentlemen, what R. Kelly wanted was to have sex with young girls," she said.

Earlier, Bonjean implored jurors not to withdraw to the jury room with an impression of Kelly informed by media coverage of him in recent years or by prosecutors at the trial.

"They throw around labels like sex predator," she said about prosecutors. "Labels and sweeping generalizations are distractions meant for you to lose your humanity for this man."

She described Kelly as a flawed genius who was functionally illiterate since childhood and was ill-equipped to navigate his celebrity and fortune. She said having been abused as a child also deeply affected him.

Bonjean said some witnesses who testified with immunity hadn't come to the courthouse in Chicago, Kelly's hometown, to tell the unvarnished truth.

"They came in here to tell the government's version of the truth," she said.

Among others, Bonjean cited Kelly ex-girlfriend Lisa Van Allen, who testified about how she stole a sex tape from a Kelly gym bag in the early 2000s. She also pointed to former Kelly merchandizing agent Charles Freeman, who testified that he asked Kelly for \$1 million in exchange for returning another, potentially incriminating, video. Both testified with immunity.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

US returns looted ancient Jewish coin to Israel

JERUSALEM (AP)—American authorities have returned a rare, 2,000-year-old Jewish coin to Israel nearly two decades after it was looted, smuggled and put up for auction in the United States, Israel's antiquities authority announced Tuesday. The quarter shekel silver coin, made in the year 69, is one of just two confirmed to exist. The other has been in the British Museum's collection for a century. It was minted during the fourth year of the First Jewish Revolt against the Roman Empire in the first century A.D. Several other examples of the coin are believed to be in private collectors' hands. While other types of coins struck by Jewish rebels during the revolt are more common, this denomination of small silver coinage is "super rare," said Eitan Klein of the Israel Antiquities Authorities theft prevention unit.

Winfrey selects prison memoir 'That Bird Has My Wings'

NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey has selected a prison memoir by Jarvis Jay Masters, currently on death row in San Quentin State Prison in California, for her latest book club pick. Masters' "That Bird Has My Wings: The Autobiography of an Innocent Man on Death Row" was first published in 2009. Activists for years have called for the release of Masters, sentenced to death in 1990 for taking part in the murder of a San Quentin prison guard. Masters, first imprisoned in 1981 for armed robbery, has filed numerous appeals in efforts to have his murder conviction overturned. A hearing is scheduled for next month in federal court. "A little more than 10 years ago, I was given a memoir by Jarvis Jay Masters, a man serving a death row sentence in San Quentin," Winfrey said in a statement Tuesday.

Officials: Campbell Danesh died of chloroethane inhalation

ROCHESTER, Minn. (AP)—Singer and actor Darius Campbell Danesh, who went from a British reality television show to a stage and music career, died from inhaling chloroethane and suffocating, a Minnesota medical examiner found. The 41-year-old singer and actor was found unresponsive in his apartment in Rochester, Minnesota, on Aug. 11, the Southern Minnesota Regional Medical Examiner's Office said. The medical examiner ruled that the death was accidental. Investigators said there were no signs of "intent or suspicious circumstances." Danesh's family said in a statement that he had taken chloroethane for chronic pain that he suffered from since a 2010 car crash in Spain that left him with a broken neck.

Rapper PnB Rock fatally shot in Los Angeles restaurant

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rapper PnB Rock was fatally shot during a robbery at a South Los Angeles restaurant where police believe a social media post may have tipped the assailant to his location. The Philadelphia artist, whose real name is Rakim Allen, was gunned down Monday at a Roscoe's Chicken and Waffles restaurant while eating with his girlfriend. A robber approached their table and demanded items from the victim, according to Los Angeles police. A verbal exchange ended when the assailant opened fire, striking the rapper multiple times. Rock's girlfriend had posted the location and tagged the rapper in an Instagram post that has since been deleted. Detectives are investigating whether the post prompted the attack, police Chief Michel Moore told the Los Angeles Times on Tuesday.

Emmys reach record-low audience of 5.9 million people

NEW YORK (AP)—The Emmy Awards hit a new low in viewership on Monday night, with its estimated audience of 5.9 million people even smaller than the COVID-19-disrupted ceremony two years ago. The Nielsen company said the ceremony honoring television's best work, where "Ted Lasso" was named best comedy and "Succession" best drama, was down from the 7.4 million people who watched in 2021. Usually shown on a Sunday night, the Emmys were shifted to Monday to make way for NBC's first "Sunday Night Football" game the night before. It couldn't escape football, however, since it competed against a tight "Monday Night Football" game. The Emmys were hosted by Kanan Thompson of "Saturday Night Live."

Wedding plans clouded by young man's mental illness

DEAR ABBY: After three years together, my fiancé and I plan to be married next year. While we have the usual couples' things going on, one concern is making me consider postponing the wedding or ending the engagement. My fiancé has a son whose mental illness led him to withdraw from high school at 16. He has done nothing since. He doesn't work, and his father hasn't gotten him treatment for his issues.

I made it clear at the beginning of our relationship that I have no desire for us to be lifelong caretakers to someone who refuses to help himself. He doesn't want to tell his son to leave. Nobody wants to take him in, and he constantly flips between wanting treatment and not wanting treatment. I told my fiancé he has until later this year to figure out what to do about this, or we will have to postpone the wedding. He said if we postpone now, what's to stop me from postponing again in the future?

He mentioned that we should work through this as a couple and get married with this unresolved, if necessary. I told him this is an important issue that needs to be resolved before the wedding. I applaud him for being a single father and raising his son from such a young age. Please let me know your thoughts on the situation.

BIG DILEMMA IN INDIANA

DEAR DILEMMA: When a person marries into a family, they marry into its problems. (No family is without

them.) If you don't want to share the responsibility of his mentally ill son, you should not marry this man. Rather than make him choose between the two of you, assume the responsibility for making the decision.

If your fiancé doesn't already know about The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), he should look into it. NAMI comprises families with the same problems he is facing, and it might help him to know what has worked for them. Its website is nami.org. Should you decide to go through with the marriage, you should consider joining as well.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: At what age do you stop holding hands when going for walks? I say never, but my boyfriend thinks we're too old to be holding hands because it's a teenager thing. I'm 61 and he is 60. I have just started dating again, and I love the feeling of holding his hand. I never had that during my two marriages.

I am white, and he is Black. He says it's just something Black folks don't do. I'm not sure about that because I have seen a lot of couples of many ages and races holding hands. How do I get him to understand that holding hands gives me comfort and a good feeling?

AFFECTIONATE IN NEW YORK

DEAR AFFECTIONATE: If you have told your boy-

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



friend you need this and he responds by making excuses and ignoring you, then face it -- he isn't receptive. Is he also unwilling to hold hands in private? Holding hands is not uncommon in Black culture. Many African American couples of every age hold hands and enjoy doing it. From where I sit, your boyfriend is either not affectionate or is reluctant to display affection in public because you're an interracial couple and he is concerned about unwanted attention.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone -- teens to seniors -- is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Suns owner Sarver suspended 1 year, fined \$10M after probe

NEW YORK (AP)— The NBA has suspended Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury owner Robert Sarver for one year, plus fined him \$10 million, after an investigation found that he had engaged in what the league called “workplace misconduct and organizational deficiencies.”

The findings of the league’s report, published Tuesday, came nearly a year after the NBA asked a law firm to investigate allegations that Sarver had a history of racist, misogynistic and hostile incidents over his nearly two-decade tenure overseeing the franchise.

Sarver said he will “accept the consequences of the league’s decision” and apologized for “words and actions that offended our employees,” though noted he disagreed with some of the report’s findings.

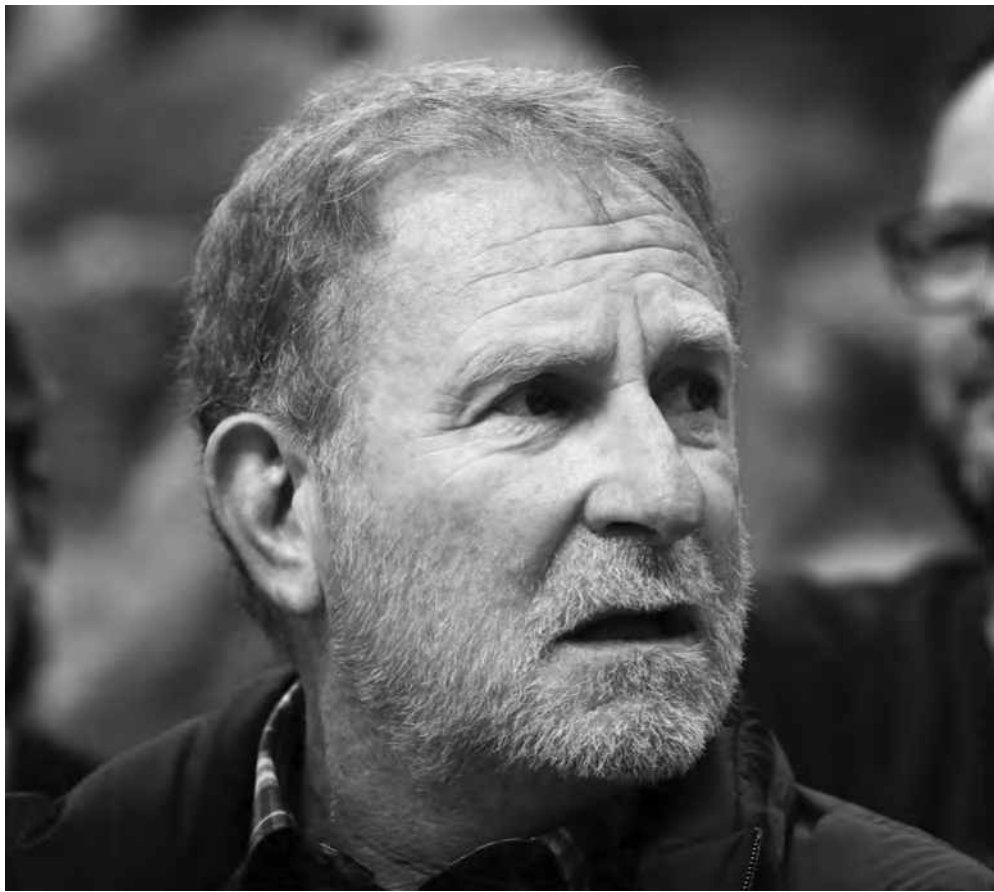
The report said Sarver “repeated or purported to repeat the N-word on at least five occasions spanning his tenure with the Suns,” though added that the investigation “makes no finding that Sarver used this racially insensitive language with the intent to demean or denigrate.”

The study also concluded that Sarver used demeaning language toward female employees, including telling a pregnant employee that she would not be able to do her job after becoming a mother; made off-color comments and jokes about sex and anatomy; and yelled and cursed at employees in ways that would be considered bullying “under workplace standards.”

The \$10 million fine is the maximum allowed by NBA rule.

“I take full responsibility for what I have done,” Sarver said. “I am sorry for causing this pain, and these errors in judgment are not consistent with my personal philosophy or my values. ... This moment is an opportunity for me to demonstrate a capacity to learn and grow as we continue to build a working culture where every employee feels comfortable and valued.”

Sarver, the league said, cannot be present at any NBA or WNBA team facility, including any office, arena, or practice facility; attend or participate in any NBA or WNBA event or activity, including games, practices or business partner activity; represent the Suns or Mercury in any public or private capacity; or have any involvement with the business or basketball operations of the Suns or Mercury.



Phoenix Suns owner Robert Sarver watches the team play against the Memphis Grizzlies during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Phoenix, Dec. 11, 2019. AP

The league said it would donate the \$10 million “to organizations that are committed to addressing race and gender-based issues in and outside the workplace.”

“The statements and conduct described in the findings of the independent investigation are troubling and disappointing,” NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. “We believe the outcome is the right one, taking into account all the facts, circumstances and context brought to light by the comprehensive investigation of this 18-year period and our commitment to upholding proper standards in NBA workplaces.”

It’s the second-largest penalty — in terms of total sanctions — ever levied by the NBA against a team owner, behind Donald Sterling being banned for life by Silver in 2014. Sterling was fined \$2.5 million, the largest allowable figure at that time, and was forced to sell the Los Angeles Clippers as part of the massive fallout that followed him making racist comments in a recorded conversation.

The allegations against Sarver were reported by ESPN last year, which said it talked to dozens of current and former team employees for its story, including some who detailed inappropriate behavior. He originally denied or disputed most of the allegations through his legal team.

On Tuesday, Sarver’s representatives said the investigation’s findings “confirmed that there was no evidence,

whatsoever, to support several of the accusations in ESPN’s reporting from November 2021.”

“While it is difficult to identify with precision what motivated Sarver’s workplace behavior described in this report, certain patterns emerged from witness accounts: Sarver often acted aggressively in an apparent effort to provoke a reaction from his targets; Sarver’s sense of humor was sophomoric and inappropriate for the workplace; and Sarver behaved as though workplace norms and policies did not apply to him,” read the report

from the New York-based investigating firm of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz.

Sarver will have to complete a training program “focused on respect and appropriate conduct in the workplace” during his suspension, the league said.

Sarver, through his attorney, continued denying the allegations as recently as June in a letter to the league and insisted the claims against him were “demonstrably false.”

The attorney, Thomas Clare, wrote that Sarver’s record shows a “longstanding commitment to social and ra-

cial justice” and that it attests to his “commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.”

“Mr. Sarver is one of few NBA owners who continues to support and advance the development of women’s professional basketball,” Clare wrote, citing upgrades to the Mercury team facilities, how the Suns claim a league-best rate of 55% employment of minorities within its front office and how more than half of the Suns’ coaches and general managers in Sarver’s tenure — including current coach Monty Williams and current GM James Jones — are Black.

Among the league’s findings:

— That Sarver engaged in “crude, sexual and vulgar commentary and conduct in the workplace,” including references to sexual acts, condoms and the anatomy, referring to both his own and those of others.

— The investigation also found that Sarver sent a small number of male Suns employees “joking pornographic material and crude emails, including emails containing photos of a nude woman and a video of two people having sex.”

— Sarver, the investigation found, also exposed himself unnecessarily to a male Suns employee during a fitness check, caused another male employee to become uncomfortable by grabbing him and dancing “pelvis to pelvis” at a holiday party, and standing nude in front of a male employee following a shower.

— He also made comments about female employees, the investigation found,

including the attractiveness of Suns dancers, and asked a female Suns employee if she had undergone breast augmentation.

The league also will require the Suns and Mercury to engage in a series of workplace improvements, including retaining outside firms that will “focus on fostering a diverse, inclusive and respectful workplace.”

Employees of those organizations will be surveyed, anonymously and regularly, to ensure that proper workplace culture is in place. The NBA and WNBA will need to be told immediately of any instances, or even allegations, of significant misconduct by any employees.

All those conditions will be in place for three years.

The league said the results of the investigation were based on interviews with 320 individuals, including current and former employees who worked for the teams during Sarver’s 18 years with the Suns, and from the evaluation of more than 80,000 documents and other materials, including emails, text messages and videos.

Sarver and the Suns and Mercury “cooperated fully with the investigative process,” the league said.

“Regardless of position, power or intent, we all need to recognize the corrosive and hurtful impact of racially insensitive and demeaning language and behavior,” Silver said. “On behalf of the entire NBA, I apologize to all of those impacted by the misconduct outlined in the investigators’ report. We must do better.”

Wolves reprimand Edwards for homophobic social media remark

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)— The Minnesota Timberwolves reprimanded star guard Anthony Edwards on Monday for homophobic comments he made on an Instagram video and later apologized for.

“We are disappointed in the language and actions Anthony Edwards displayed on social media,” president of basketball operations Tim Connelly said in a statement distributed by the team. “The Timberwolves are committed to being an inclusive and welcoming organization for all and apologize for the offense this has caused to so many.”

In the since-deleted post, Edwards recorded a group of men on a sidewalk from a vehicle he was inside and made a disparaging, profane comment about what he assumed to be



Anthony Edwards is a former No 1 overall pick in the NBA Draft. AP

their sexual orientation. He posted an apology on Twitter on Sunday.

“What I said was immature, hurtful, and disrespectful, and I’m incredibly sorry.

It’s unacceptable for me or anyone to use that language in such a hurtful way,” Edwards tweeted. “There’s no excuse for it, at all. I was raised better than that!”

Nikola Jokic, Kevin Durant, Rajon Rondo and Kobe Bryant are among the NBA players who’ve been disciplined by the league in the past for anti-gay language.

Dodgers win NL West; Yankees' Judge hits 56th, 57th homers



PHOENIX

(AP)—Clayton

Kershaw pitched seven dominant innings and the Los Angeles Dodgers won the NL West for the ninth time in 10 seasons, beating the Arizona Diamondbacks 4-0 Tuesday night.

Freddie Freeman, Max Muncy and Joey Gallo homered as the Dodgers boosted the best record in the majors to 98-43. They lead second-place San Diego by a whopping 20 1/2 games.

Manager Dave Roberts' team will have plenty of time to get set for its 10th straight year in the postseason. The Dodgers' first playoff game is almost a month away, on Oct. 11.

The only season the Dodgers didn't clinch the division in their recent run was last year — they won 106 times but still finished one game behind San Francisco. Los Angeles then beat the Giants in the NL Division Series before falling to eventual champion Atlanta in the NLCS.

A crowd of 21,143, mostly clad in Dodger blue, watched the clincher. It's the Dodgers' 20th NL West crown since the majors split into divisions in 1969.

Kershaw (8-3) was sharp throughout, allowing just two singles and one walk while striking out five. He threw just 82 pitches, 55 for strikes. He lowered his season ERA to 2.44. Caleb Ferguson and Craig Kimbrel finished the combined three-hit shutout.

Merrill Kelly (12-6) lasted five innings, losing for the first time in 14 starts.

Yankees 7, Red Sox 6, 10 innings

In Boston, Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 56th and 57th home runs, Gleyber Torres had a go-ahead three-run double in the 10th inning and New York held on to beat Boston.

Judge, playing in New York's 142nd game, is four from tying the American League home run record Roger Maris set with the Yankees in 1961.

After going homerless in five games, Judge had a pair of of tying solo homers, off Nick Pivetta in the sixth and Garrett Whitlock in the eighth.

Judge has 10th multi-homer games this season, one shy of the AL record Hank Greenberg set in 1938, and 26 in his career. Judge's three hits raised his average to .310, and he leads the major leagues in home runs and with 123 RBIs.

New York, which came from behind three times, re-opened a six-game AL East lead, its largest since Sept. 1.

Torres broke a 4-4 tie in the



Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw throws to an Arizona Diamondbacks batter during the first inning of a baseball game in Phoenix, Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2022.

10th against Jeurys Familia (2-3). Clay Holmes (6-3) was the winner.

Twins 6, Royals 3

In Minneapolis, Minnesota rookie Joe Ryan and reliever Jovani Moran combined to pitch no-hit ball until Bobby Witt Jr. doubled with one out in the ninth inning against Kansas City.

Ryan was pulled after seven innings and 106 pitches, four shy of his big league high. There has never been a no-hitter at Target Field, and the crowd of 19,005 booed when Twins manager Rocco Baldelli sent Moran to the mound to start the eighth.

Moran worked a perfect eighth. He struck out Drew Waters to begin the ninth before walking pinch-hitter Hunter Dozier and MJ Melendez. The Royals hadn't come close to a hit until Witt lined a 1-2 fastball for a clean drive to deep left for an RBI double, setting off more boos from the fans.

Carlos Correa, Jose Miranda and Gio Urshela hit home runs as the Twins snapped a three-game skid. Ryan (11-8) struck out nine, walked two and set down his last 12 batters. He has never gone past seven innings in his career and had lost three of his previous four decisions.

Kris Bubic (2-12) was the loser.

Guardians 3, Angels 1

In Cleveland, Los Angeles star Mike Trout's home run streak ended at seven games, one shy of the major league record, and AL Central-leading Cleveland beat the Angels.

Trout went 0 for 3 with three routine flyballs and a walk. The three-time AL MVP

was chasing the mark of eight straight games with a home run, set by Pittsburgh's Dale Long in 1956 and matched by Don Mattingly of the Yankees in 1987 and Seattle's Ken Griffey Jr. in 1993.

Oscar Gonzalez's two-run homer in the sixth broke a 1-all tie and gave Cleveland its fifth straight win. José Ramirez started the inning with a double and Gonzalez lined an 0-2 pitch from José Suarez (6-7) off the railing atop the wall in left field.

Rookie Kirk McCarty (3-2) held Los Angeles to one hit in 3 2/3 innings for Cleveland, which has won seven of eight. Emmanuel Clase gave up a two-out single in the ninth, but struck out Matt Duffy and converted his 35th save in 38 chances.

Braves 5, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Kyle Wright earned his major league-leading 18th victory, Dansby Swanson homered and drove in three runs and Atlanta beat San Francisco to move with a half-game of the first-place New York Mets in the NL East.

Wright (18-5) struck out four while pitching into the sixth. The right-hander won his fifth straight decision. Swanson hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the third and added an RBI single in the ninth.

Jakob Junis (4-6) was the loser.

Cubs 4, Mets 1

In New York, Jacob deGrom was outpitched by Adrian Sampson and frustrated New York mustered little on offense against Chicago.

Ian Happ homered deep into the second deck on a 99 mph heater from deGrom (5-2), and No. 9 batter David

Bote added his second home run of the season for the Cubs.

Sampson (2-5) allowed two hits and four walks in six shutout innings. He struck out three.

New York's Pete Alonso launched his 34th homer in the ninth against Brandon Hughes, who got five outs to finish it.

Brewers 8, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Andrew McCutchen homered and drove in three and the Milwaukee Brewers used eight pitchers to beat NL Central-leading St. Louis.

Down three starters to injuries, the taxed Brewers staff was stretched even further when starter Matt Bush left after just 15 pitches because of right groin discomfort. Bush was the starter in what the club had already designated as a bullpen game.

Luis Perdomo (2-0) was the winner, allowing one run in three innings. Perdomo, Brad Boxberger, Hoby Milner, Justin Topa, Taylor Rogers and Brent Suter combined to retire 20 of 22 batters from the third inning on.

Padres 2, Mariners 0

In Seattle, Yu Darvish limited Seattle to two hits over eight innings, Wil Myers provided the primary offensive highlight with an RBI double and San Diego beat the Mariners 2-0.

San Diego stayed two games ahead of Milwaukee in the chase for the final wild-card spot in the NL, while Seattle dropped into a tie with Tampa Bay a half-game behind Toronto in the AL race for the top spot.

Darvish (14-7) needed just 94 pitches to get through the eight innings. He struck out

seven and the only batters to reach base came on Eugenio Suárez's single in the first inning and Ty France's base hit leading off the seventh.

Orioles 4, Nationals 3

In Washington, Ryan Mountcastle hit a tying homer and Baltimore beat Washington.

The Orioles moved within five games of Tampa Bay for the final wild-card spot. The Nationals have lost four in a row to fall a season-high 44 games under .500 at a majors-worst 49-93.

Mountcastle led off the fifth with his 22nd homer, a shot to right-center off former Orioles prospect Hunter Harvey (1-1) to tie it at 3. Gunnar Henderson then doubled, went to third on Ramón Urias' single and scored on Austin Hays' bloop double.

Baltimore's Dean Kremer (7-5) allowed three runs in five-plus innings. Félix Bautista worked around a leadoff walk in the ninth for his 13th save in 14 attempts.

White Sox 4, Rockies 2

In Chicago, Eloy Jiménez hit a three-run homer and Miguel Cairo directed Chicago to another victory, topping Colorado.

The White Sox improved to 10-4 since Cairo stepped in for manager Tony La Russa, who is awaiting clearance to return to the dugout after dealing with a heart issue. The 77-year-old La Russa was at the ballpark before the game, but it was Cairo's lineup card once again.

Michael Kopech (5-9) pitched five effective innings for Chicago. José Abreu also went deep, and Liam Hendriks handled the ninth for his 33rd save.

Rangers 8, Athletics 7

In Arlington, Texas, Mark Mathias hit his second homer of the game, a solo shot with one out in the ninth, and Texas overcame a five-run deficit to beat Oakland.

Mathias had three extra-base hits and drove in four runs. Adolis Garcia added a two-run homer and had three RBIs for Texas. Mathias hit his decisive homer to left off Joel Payamps (3-5).

Brock Burke (7-3), the last of three Texas pitchers, threw two scoreless innings.

Astros 6, Tigers 3

In Detroit, rookie Hunter Brown returned to his hometown to pitch six strong innings, leading Houston past Detroit.

Brown (2-0), who allowed two runs on five hits, was making his second career start in front of a loud group of friends and family. He grew up

in suburban Detroit and attended Wayne State, about a mile from Comerica Park.

Yordan Alvarez homered and scored three times to help the Astros improve to 6-0 against the Tigers this season. Ryan Pressly struck out the side in the ninth for his 27th save.

Tigers starter Drew Hutchison (2-8) was the loser.

Rays 4, Blue Jays 2, 1st game Blue Jays 7, Rays 2, 2nd game

In Toronto, pinch-hitter Whit Merrifield drove in two runs with a seventh-inning double, George Springer added a two-run homer and Toronto beat Tampa Bay for a doubleheader split between AL wild-card contenders.

Toronto (80-62) remained a half-game ahead of the Rays (79-62). Anthony Bass (4-3) got one out for the win. Colin Poche (4-2) was the loser.

In the opener, Tampa Bay's Jeffrey Springs (8-4) pitched six shutout innings to win for the fifth time in six decisions, Randy Arozarena drove in two runs and Díaz had three hits and scored twice. Julian Merryweather (0-3) was the loser.

Pirates 6, Reds 1, 1st game Pirates 1, Reds 0, 2nd game

In Cincinnati, Kevin Newman hit an RBI single in the seventh inning, four pitchers combined on a one-hitter and Pittsburgh beat Cincinnati for day-night doubleheader sweep.

Bryan Reynolds homered for the second straight game and drove in two runs as Pittsburgh hit three home runs for the second game in a row and won the opener.

Chase De Jong (5-2) won the second game. Raynel Espinal (0-1) was the loser.

In the opener Johan Oviedo (1-1) pitched hitless ball into the fifth and allowed one hit over five shutout innings. Luis Cessa (3-3) was the loser.

Phillies 2, Marlins 1

In Miami, Nick Maton hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning off Sandy Alcantara, leading Philadelphia past Miami and tightening the Phillies' grip on the second spot in the NL wild-card race.

Philadelphia won its fourth in a row. Alcantara (12-8) fell to 1-3 in six starts against the Phillies this season.

Bailey Falter (5-3) allowed one run and four hits in six innings, striking out four. The Phillies then got perfect innings from relievers José Alvarado and Seranthony Dominguez, and David Robertson followed with a perfect ninth for his 20th save.

Lady Dolphins sweep opposition in HS v-ball

By LEIGH GASES

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CORRESPONDENT

All three Marianas High School girls volleyball teams won their respective games in the continuation of the Public School System Girls High School Volleyball League 2022-2023 last Tuesday at the MHS Gymnasium.

This was in stark contrast to the previous two playdates of girls high school volleyball when the Lady Dolphins left their home gym with no wins.

In the final set of games, the Lady Dolphins varsity team played against a strong Agape Christian School varsity team and won, 22-20, 15-21, 15-8.

Earlier, the MHS junior varsity team went up against Grace Christian Academy's own JV team and the Lady Dolphins prevailed, 18-21, 21-12, 15-10.



LEIGH GASES

Marianas High School's Tamia Hix jumps against an Agape Christian School blocker to gain a point in the varsity game of the Public School System Girls High School Volleyball League 2022-2023 last Tuesday at the MHS Gym.

MHS 9 JV actually scored the Lady Dolphins' first win of the day when they beat Saipan International School's JV team in three sets, 21-10, 19-21, 15-11.

Christine Wood Saunders, who is an LA2 teacher and is helping coach MHS for the first time, said she felt "good about the win because we have three teams and all three won today... We had practice over the weekend and we really drilled them Saturday morning. It's good that they took what they learned in practice and applied it in the games."

She added that some of the players don't know each other too well so "an important part was having them play as a team. We had them scrimmage together, pass to people that they don't regularly talk to, so that they could get comfortable with each other, and I think once they became comfortable that's when they started playing like a team and they're able to pull it off today."

All three MHS teams are now 1-1 in the high schools girls volleyball standings.

The MHS varsity team includes Raenna Rogolifoi, Tamia Hix, Kina Rangamar, Rizza Relucio, Elaina Manglona, Julie An Capayas, Marielle Lopez, Angel Roligat, and Kallista Klaver.

The MHS JV team is com-

posed of Hyun Ah Cloie Seo, Daejah Benavente, Tina Rose Kapwich, Liorah Serrilo, Althea Surima, Sherry Zhu, and Shawna Castro.

Jenica Hidalgo, Seolyn Abbie Kim, Jovinia Moses, Ava Deleon Guererro, Kevina Tababa, Davalyn Ham, Leilani Attao, Ale'a Duenas, Ikeesha Aquiningoc, and Sheenah Gatdula make up the MHS 9 JV team.

In the other games, Saipan Southern High School's JV beat Mount Carmel School, 21-19, 21-19.

Kagman High School JV defeated ACS JV, 21-15, 21-16.

And in the last varsity game of the night, MCS defeated SSHS in three exciting sets, 21-13, 8-21, 15-6.

Currently in the junior varsity standings, SSHS JV is on top with 2-0 win-loss record, MHS JV, MHS 9, ACS JV, GCA JV, KHS JV are at 1-1, MCS JV is still at 1-0, and SIS is at the bottom at 0-2.

In the varsity standings, GCA and MCS are on top at 2-0, MHS is at 1-1, SIS is still at 1-0, KHS is still at 0-1, and ACS and SSHS are at the bottom with 0-2.

The Public School System Girls High School Volleyball League 2022-2023 is being held with help from the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association.

International Coastal Cleanup Day 5K race this Saturday

By LEIGH GASES

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CORRESPONDENT

In honor of International Coastal Cleanup Day this Saturday, Run Saipan partnered again with Salty Skin Pacific for the 2nd Annual ICC 5K at the Tank Beach in Kagman.

The shotgun start is at 6am and the beach cleanup will happen thereafter at 7am.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. said that there will be no last day to register for the race as it's open until the very morning of the event.

He said "that's the perks of

using race roster. People can just decide the morning they wake up if they want to join our 5K. Just quick online registration."

It will be their first 5K in Kagman and Dela Cruz said that he "hopes people, especially runners, join our beach clean up this Saturday at 7am in support of [Coastal Resources Management's] tradition of the ICC even if they don't want to do the 5K beforehand."

"I beg the people of Kagman to make sure their dogs are restrained this Saturday because it's not just us that will be out there. PSS Cross country students will be running around. I hope motorists will be more aware and drive slowly, es-

pecially those heading to the HANMI golf tournament. It's a beautiful day for Kagman this weekend! So many things going on!" he said.

"Everyone that signs up for the 5K will be given a raffle ticket. After the beach clean up we will be giving out raffle prizes" he added.

Java Joe's, Salty Skin Pacific, and Latte Built have donated prizes to the event. "Latte built is always known to give spectacular free gym membership prizes at Run Saipan events" said Dela Cruz.

The Top 3 fastest runners will also be getting Run Saipan award medals.

To join, click on the link or

click on this link:

<https://raceroster.com/events/2022/64292/international-coastal-cleanup-5k?fbclid=IwAR2tQ0COv8bMYdnDISGwbUev6FUZd-fX-Y8DykrLMisKqFgpUnuNWdIfSKg>

For more information on this event or other events, email runsaipan@gmail.com.

On the same morning, the second qualifier of the PSS-NMA Cross Country 2022-2023 will be held.

Last year, 17 runners participated in the first ICC 5K (officially 2.5K) with Marshall Hoskins coming in first in the men's division, with a time of 09:12.

TSUKAGOSHI

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sets in the quarterfinals, 2-6, 6-2, 3-10.

Over in the girls 14 doubles, Chung paired up with Guam's Leila Mercado and lost to Vanuatu's Alisha Kanegai and Ashanti Ligo, 6-4, 6-1.

In the boys 14s singles, Nason Wessel won against Bing Low of Australia in three tough sets to advance to the semifinals, 6-4,

6-7, 10-8.

June Yu lost to Tahiti's Hiva Kelly in two sets in the quarterfinals, 1-6, 3-6.

La Hunn Lam lost as well to Tahiti's Keanu Lei Foc in two sets in the quarterfinals, 6-1, 6-1.

In the boys 14 doubles, Lam and Seung Woo "Henry" Choi paired up to defeat Solomon Islands' John Taufunu and Vanuatu's Alessandro Traverso, 4-6, 6-4, 11-9.

In the girls 16 singles, Serin Chung qualified for the quarterfinals as well but lost

to Tahiti's Taverio Chung in three sets, 4-6, 7-5, 6-10.

Savita Sikkell won in three sets against Guam's Amelia Terlaje in the quarterfinals to move on to the semifinals, 6-2, 3-6, 8-10.

In the boys 16, David Kwon reached the semifinals of the doubles event with Guam's Andy Cajigan. Kwon also won his singles match against Titus Paul of Samoa in an easy two sets, 6-0, 6-0.

As of yesterday morning, the breakdown of the

qualifications for the quarterfinals by country, starting with the boys 14 are, Tahiti with three, the NMI with two, and Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Samoa with one apiece.

For the girls 14's, it's the NMI with three and Cook Islands, Tahiti, Guam, Papua New Guinea, and Samoa with one each.

Today is Day 6 of the tournament. Results of the next matches will be published in tomorrow's edition of *Saipan Tribune*.

CAMACHO

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members of the community that they will meet along the course. Breaks and sleep are allowed, but only outdoors and they are looking at completing the course in 18 hours.

"I've been through a lot of MMA fights and enjoyed ev-

ery challenge I came across the cage. However, running or walking is something I find more challenging than MMA fighting. The funny thing is when I started to get serious with MMA, I knew I had to get in shape and though I hate running, I had to do it as it's part of the preparation. Running, walking, or trekking, especially long distance, is something

that would test you more mentally and physically, so while I am scared of it, I always look forward to the challenge," said Camacho.

"I've never run a marathon in my whole life and we're doing about 47 to 52 miles. I've just finished a 5K and I am gassed out. But there's no turning back, we have to do it to accomplish the mission and

help people in need," he added.

The Ultimate Fighting Championship veteran is calling on the support of the community for his new endeavor, which is made possible with his partnership with the CCA, Fit To Lead Initiative, and the Office of the Governor.

"I challenge the community, especially runners and walkers, to join us in this trek

and raise awareness on how we can prevent diseases and death by getting involved in health and wellness activities. 'The Crank' is excited that his good reporter friend, Roselyn Monroy, will be joining him on the run and trek for 50 miles, LOL," Camacho said.

For groups that would want to support the cause, Camacho said they could

donate funds online through FrankTheCrank.com/pages/CCA and 100% of the proceeds from the Sept. 30 event will be turned over to CCA to assist the association's program, including providing assistance to cancer victims.

To sponsor or for more information, send email to fbcamacho@gmail.com or call 671-747-7585.



Suns owner Sarver
suspended 1 year,
fined \$10M after
probe

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Lady Dolphins
sweep opposition
in HS v-ball

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Cruz zooms from zero to hero to win Expert Class

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

After finishing dead last in 2021, Ellery Cruz buckled down to work and his perseverance paid off after he was awarded the No. 1 plate in the Expert Class of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series during the Marianas Racing Association awards banquet last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The 36-year-old CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management staff beat Dave Celis and

Cuki Alvarez for the division championship after finishing with 279 points. Celis came in second with his 254 points, while last year's winner, Alvarez, wound up third with 251 points. Celis also was runner-up in the Veterans Class.

"This year's success in the Expert Class is attributed to my practice sessions where I did my best to sharpen my riding skills. It was challenging because I have three kids who also ride, with my fourth (and oldest child) just recently expressing interest in

riding. A lot of my focus was on them and helping them during practice days. I had to squeeze in the most time I could for myself, which was often very little. But I made it work," said Cruz.

Changing bikes may also have something to do with Cruz winning it all this year, as during the March points race that he won, Cruz actually was forced to use his friend Jared Lizama's 2022 Yamaha yz250f after his own Yamaha 2020 yz450f conked out.

"From getting last place last year to No. 1 this year

See CRUZ on Page 19



MARK RABAGO

Expert Class champion Ellery Cruz, middle, shares the podium with runner-up Dave Celis, left, and Cuki Alvarez during the Marianas Racing Association's 2022 Monster Energy Point Series awards banquet last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Tsukagoshi leads the way for NMI



ITF
Lina Tsukagoshi in action in the 2022 Pacific Oceania Juniors Championship at the Regional Tennis Center in Lautoka, Fiji.

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Lina Tsukagoshi, the only girls 12-and-under tennis player in the NMI delegation, has won three of her four singles matches four days into the 2022 Pacific Oceania Juniors Championship at the Regional Tennis Center in Lautoka, Fiji.

CNMI national tennis coach Jeff Race said that Tsukagoshi "has been doing very well as our only girls 12 player."

"Our kids have been playing better as the tournament goes on, especially in the 14s," added Race about the team.

Irin Chung, Hannah Chae, and Hoo Wang all qualified for the girls 14 quarterfinal, with

Chung reaching the semifinals after beating Chae in two sets in the quarterfinals.

In the girls 14 singles, Anna Kwon won against Alisha Kanegai of Vanuatu, 6-4, 1-6, 10-5, to advance to the semifinals alongside Chung.

Hoo Wang lost to Australia's Raetea Rongo in three

See TSUKAGOSHI on Page 19

Camacho 'fights' off the MMA cage

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho is taking on a different challenge, moving away from his comfort zone to support a good cause.

Camacho has committed to trek around Saipan, covering more than a full marathon distance to raise funds for the Commonwealth Cancer Association and awareness on health, wellness, and fitness. He and his friends, Josh Castro

and Jose Quan, will start the trek on Sept. 30 at 3pm with the route beginning and ending at Pacific Islands Club Saipan and covering American Memorial Park, Banzai Cliff, Joeten Kagman, Marine Beach, Forbidden Island Lookout, Laolao Beach, Naftan Point, and Coral Ocean Point. As an added challenge, no member of the trek team will be allowed to bring food, water, money, and these necessities should come from

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frank "The Crank" Camacho, seen here posing for a photo before running at the track, will take on a challenge off the MMA cage on Sept. 30.